



## **STATEMENT FROM GENERAL MCLANE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

From General McLane School District Superintendent Richard Scaletta

November 9, 2020

All parents and families in the District received this communication via phone call home on Monday, November 9, 2020 around 7:30 p.m.

For questions or more information, please contact Sarah Grabski, Director of Communications and Administrative Services at [sarahgrabski@generalmclane.org](mailto:sarahgrabski@generalmclane.org) or 814-273-1033 ext 5901.

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“Tonight I’m reporting that we have a middle school student who is a probable case. There are two close contacts related to that case within the building and 6 close contacts from the bus.

As you may be aware, Erie County, as well as the state, is seeing a surge of positive cases. Local hospitals have seen increases in COVID cases.

Last week I reported that the number of cases in our ZIP codes within the district was high, as well as the positivity rate. Unfortunately, that has not changed except that the higher numbers are now in the 16412 area code and the McKean zip has the lower numbers. All the numbers, though, are over the safe threshold. We are in what is called the SUBSTANTIAL category.

At our weekly meeting with the Erie County health department on Friday, here is what they reported:

- Local hospitals are seeing their highest number of CoVid cases
- While increases are seen at all age levels, the largest growth is in the age 40-50 range.
- The department of health workers are overwhelmed at this time.
- Sports have been problematic, mostly from travel teams and club sports (issues w/ PIAA sports have been related to social gatherings off the fields)

I have asked all club sports in the district to wait until January to start so that we can prioritize PIAA sports and see what happens with the colder weather and the holidays. I would caution all parents from participation in these activities given what we are seeing at the local and national level.

You are seeing more and more schools shutting down temporarily. There are a number of factors that go into the decision to close a building, and you will not likely be aware of all those factors. Because we are the only districted which is doing half days K-12, we hope to avoid the necessity of shutting down and going 100% online. It will only happen under certain circumstances. We have a statement on our website that further explains the issues related to a closure at GM.

There is no question that we are currently in the midst of the greatest challenge to date during this pandemic. To keep our kids safe and schools open, it will take sacrifice from all of us in regard to giving up the social events and gatherings we have always had, and it will take diligence in monitoring symptoms. Some of our recent cases in the district have occurred because people have minimized the symptoms they’ve had and gone out into public or school when they should have been cautious.

We will have another Facebook Live this Thursday starting at noon so tune in, stay calm and eat your fruits and vegetables.”