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Memo From: Sr. Margaret Mancuso and Sr. Marlene Pape
Memo To: All Nazareth Elementary Parents and Guardians
Subject: COVID information
Date: Friday, December 3, 2021

First of all, we want to say how much we appreciate your ongoing efforts to promote the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff at Nazareth Elementary. Your willingness to keep children home when they are sick (or have been exposed), quick response when children need to be sent home, and adherence to health department guidelines – all of these things have helped in our efforts to stay safe and well at school.

As you know, COVID infections in our Rochester area are on the rise and are likely to increase during the holiday season. At Nazareth, we have had a total of four positive student cases and four positive teacher or staff member cases during this school year. Fortunately, these individual cases have not led to outbreaks in the school community, largely due to the efforts of parents and staff.

So what can parents do to prevent infection? First of all, neither parents nor schools can control every possible variable. But some things are within our control.

1. Be sure your child is wearing a properly fitted mask, one that covers the child's mouth and nose and stays up without constant adjustment. Fitting a mask well for a child is a challenge, but doing so can help prevent transmission of the virus.
2. Remind your children of the need to wear the masks properly and maintain distance in the classroom, on the bus, and in the lunchroom.
3. Encourage your children to wash their hands and/or use hand sanitizer properly.
4. Consider vaccinations to prevent COVID 19 for all eligible family members, including your eligible children. (If your child is vaccinated, please send documentation to Sr. Marlene.)
5. If you, the parent or guardian, have already been vaccinated, get your booster if your last Pfizer or Moderna shot was over six months ago; two months for J&J. Unfortunately, protection seems to decrease over time.
6. If your child has been exposed to someone with COVID 19, please notify Sr. Marlene as soon as possible and report that contact to the Health Department. With daily testing, it is now possible that a child who has been exposed can remain in school.
7. And finally, but very important in terms of avoiding classroom closures and infection spread, please keep your child home if he or she has symptoms, until you can obtain and follow the directions from your pediatrician.

If you have not done so, please consider giving permission for your child to be part of the random testing program at school. (This is a screening program which uses rapid antigen testing.) If you are interested, please call the main office for details.

We now have the equipment and training to perform rapid PCR tests at school. This testing is available for any student who requires a negative PCR test in order to return to school. Results are typically available within an hour.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact Sr. Marlene at 458-3786 or mpape@nazarethschools.org.