



November 12, 2020

To the Parents & Guardians of Taylor's Crossing Public Charter School,

Today, I received news that is a bit frustrating for me, but nonetheless, something that needs to be addressed. I am hopeful that as parents, you know that we are doing everything in our power to keep our students safe and to prevent the spread of COVID so we can remain in school full-time. I want to reassure you that we are trying our best to keep current up with all the requirements, demands and constrictions that are placed upon us based during this pandemic.

It has been brought to my attention that there is a serious gap in the communication about positive COVID tests at TCPCS. I meet every Thursday morning at 9:30 with Eastern Idaho Public Health to discuss the latest information about the spread of COVID in our community. EIPH is responsible for communicating to us the positive test results they receive from health care professionals. They have told us that they give the Dr's and Urgent Care facilities one business day to report the positive test result to them. Apparently, there is a lapse in those reported incidents to EIPH and that will be addressed in my meeting with them this morning because in the end, if they are not getting reports, neither am I. If I am not getting positive test results, I cannot contact those as part of our tracing procedures.

For future reference, I am asking for your help. If your child tests positive for COVID, please send an email directly to me notifying me of the positive test result. I need documentation or the actual test result from the health care professionals that your student indeed tested positive. I can receive a text message with a picture of the positive test, an email or fax from the doctor sharing that information with me. Once I receive that information, I can begin the contact tracing immediately. I would not have to wait, nor rely on EIPH to get me that information because I would already have the positive test result from the parent. Part of the current issue is that I am not receiving information from EIPH about any positive test results and so therefore, I am not contacting parents or students about positive results at our school.

It is not, not will it ever be, my intent to downplay the seriousness of COVID as it relates to the health of our students, staff, and community at large. There is no attempt on my part to hide any information, however it was clearly brought to my attention this past week that there is a large gap in receiving information about COVID. Please understand that we want to do what is best for the students at Taylor's Crossing. I cannot react to or report anything that I am personally unaware of. I am trying to clean up the communication within our school so we can notify people as soon as we are aware of any positive cases, but we do rely heavily on communication from you as parents and guardians.

In the future, I would ask that you contact me directly, if your child tests positive, so we can expedite the communication for all those involved and do our part to help prevent the spread of COVID. I have communicated all positive test results I have been made aware of, however there is obviously a gap in identifying positive results. I need your help to close that gap and ask that you contact me directly with written information of positive results. In the future, I hope to resolve the information gap that currently exists between us and Eastern Idaho Public Health. We still would ask that you are diligent about keeping your children home if they have symptoms of being ill. I just want to make sure that you communicate directly with me any positive test results from your health care professional so we can act quickly and appropriately.

Thank you for your understanding,

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