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SHELTON SHIFTING TO ORANGE COVID STATUS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18th

August 17, 2021

Dear Shelton Elementary Parents/Guardians:

Before the school year began, we shared our School Operations (Opening) Plan and emphasized that the four-tiered, color-coded escalating practices would give us the flexibility to adjust and adapt to evolving pandemic-related challenges. We have been monitoring Shelton's data closely and believe now is the right time to change levels to better address COVID-19 among students and staff at Shelton.

Beginning Wednesday, August 18, 2021, Shelton Elementary will shift from Yellow to Orange operating status (Enhanced Mitigation Practices). Level Orange will require us to adapt our procedures for in-person instruction to protect the health and safety of our students and staff.

Our goal is to manage COVID-19 as a community. We have identified many positive cases that were contracted outside of school, but the impact is now being seen in our classrooms and our ability to provide adequate staffing. We are asking the community to join us as we address the case increase and be mindful of activities outside of school. Data regarding COVID-19 cases at Shelton and other PCSD schools can be found here: <https://www.paulding.k12.ga.us/Page/45777>



What does the shift to **Orange** status mean?

Our plan will increase safety practices at our school including, but not limited to, the following:

- Increased sanitation of the school facility including disinfectant fogging.
- No large-group meetings.
- Recess/PE will be managed in zones according to group sizes.
- Meals will be consumed in classrooms instead of the cafeteria.
- PTA and after-school events will be rescheduled or shifted to a Zoom format.
- Visitors will be restricted to the front office area of the school building.

Additionally, from this point forward while under Orange operating status, **students identified as close contacts** to anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 must follow this quarantine protocol:

Quarantine: Keep your child at home except in the case of emergency or to be tested for COVID-19. If your child does not experience any COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea), your quarantine may discontinue after 10 days of remaining symptom-free. During the quarantine period, your child may utilize Canvas for class work during his/her absence from school.

Monitor: For a period of 14 days, take your child's temperature twice per day and monitor for any symptoms of respiratory illness. If at any time, your child experiences any symptoms of COVID-19, including cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever (a measured temperature over 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or a feeling of feverishness), chills, muscle pain, sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell, the quarantined child shall be considered a person with suspected COVID-19 and shall follow the requirements for isolation by the Georgia Department of Public Health: <https://dph.georgia.gov/isolation-contact>, contact your healthcare professional as needed, and keep your child home from school.

We appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we adapt our plans to maintain the safest possible learning environment at Shelton Elementary. We sincerely hope this change to Orange status will help to mitigate the current challenges with COVID-19 and that we can return to a more normal school setting as quickly as possible. We encourage the entire Shelton community to remain vigilant in our daily lives and to do what we can to slow the spread of COVID-19 both inside and outside of our school campus.

We will keep you updated on our progress, but in the meantime if you have any questions please feel free to contact Mrs. Moreland at the school.

Sincerely,



Steve Barnette
Interim Superintendent



Myers Moreland
Principal