



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2021

W.M. Irvin Elementary School Closed due to COVID-19 Cases

Kannapolis, N.C. – Seventeen COVID-19 positive cases at W.M. Irvin Elementary School have prompted Cabarrus County Schools administration and Cabarrus Health Alliance officials to recommend the school transition to Plan C – Remote Learning beginning March 30 through April 1.

W.M. Irvin parents will receive a Blackboard Connect phone call and email from the school's principal this afternoon.

In addition to the 17 COVID-19 positive students, 95 students are under quarantine orders, which represents 19% of the school population. All individuals who have tested positive have been placed on isolation orders, and those identified as their close contacts have been notified and given quarantine orders.

“We appreciate CHA’s professional expertise and its guidance. Providing a safe and healthy learning/working environment is among our top priorities. We will continue implementing our established deep cleaning protocols at Irvin Elementary so that the building is ready for students and staff after Spring Break,” said Brian Schultz, CCS Interim Superintendent.

Cabarrus County Schools follows rigorous cleaning and sanitizing protocols, which are based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS). Classrooms, offices, restrooms and common areas (cafeteria, media center) will be cleaned and sanitized. The district also will continue the recommended health and safety practices of temperature checks, mask wearing, frequent hand washing and social distancing when students and staff return on April 13, after Spring Break.

Health officials have been unable to identify a link between the positive cases to signify a COVID-19 cluster. According to NC DHHS, a cluster in an educational setting is defined as five or more cases with initial positive results within a 14-day period and the ability to verify that the cases were present in the same setting during the same time-period. Links in a school setting could include being in the same class room, riding the same bus, attending the same after school program.

“Our goal is for all children to end the school year, healthy and in-person,” said Dr. Bonnie Coyle, CHA Health Director. “With the surge in cases at this school, we believe transitioning to remote learning will assist with stopping the spread and allow students to return safely after Spring Break.”

Individuals with children at Irvin Elementary School are encouraged to contact their primary care provider if they or their child begin to experience COVID-19 symptoms such as fever or chills,

cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, and loss of taste or smell. If they do not have a primary care provider please contact CHA's Call Center at 704-920-1213.

###