



LATTA SCHOOL

13925 County Road 1560 • Ada, OK 74820-0804

November 17, 2020

Dear Latta Families and Friends,

As most of you know, the State of Oklahoma and Pontotoc County have been hit by a record surge in COVID-19 cases in the past few weeks. Much like the rest of the community, Latta School has been impacted with both employees and students testing positive for the Coronavirus or being required to quarantine due to close contact with someone who is positive for the virus. It appears that most of the positive cases and instances of close contact, have occurred away from the school campus.

State health officials continue to encourage schools to employ COVID-19 mitigation strategies and have assured us schools generally aren't outbreak centers. Rather, schools reporting infected students and staff and quarantines, are reflecting community-based transmission.

Like many of you, it is our belief that our students do better academically, socially and emotionally when attending in-person school. Our objective since the beginning of school was to give our students the best opportunity to learn while maintaining the health and well-being of our students and staff. They have done an amazing job of implementing our plan to curb the spread of the virus. Students and staff show up each day with positive outlooks ready to do whatever we ask of them, and we ask a lot!

I am reaching out to our parents and community because we need your help and support. We want to continue in-person school but we are stretched thin. We have a limited supply of substitute teachers and support workers. The additional load on our staff of teaching students in-person as well as through distance learning, is difficult to say the least. I am asking each of you to double-down on your efforts to stop the spread of the disease. What you do at home helps determine whether or not our school will have a safe and healthy environment. Please wear your masks, maintain proper distancing and wash your hands often. Also, with the upcoming holidays, please do your best to keep any gatherings as small and as safe as possible.

I understand that what I am asking may seem to be a lot to some and very little to others. All I know is the precautions our families practice, or fail to practice, impact our ability to safely conduct school. If our families practice the proper safeguards, it will help us to keep our students safe and our classrooms open. If the virus continues to spread in our community, the likelihood that our school would have to change to distance learning will greatly increase. Let's all do our best to keep our students safe and in school!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Cliff Johnson', written over a horizontal line.

Cliff Johnson
Superintendent