

Dear Parents,

As we near the midpoint of the fall semester, we are thankful to our students, families, and staff for their patience during this very unusual school year. Our school leaders have worked diligently to implement precautions on school campuses, which have helped protect our students and staff. We are grateful for their work and for our staff and students who have honored the new guidelines and procedures aimed at keeping them safe.

However, the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in Flathead County is concerning to all of us. While we can continue to implement preventive measures within our campus environments, we cannot do so outside the walls of our schools. We need your help. The decisions all of us make each day have the power to make a difference in this pandemic. There are steps all of us can take to reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- **Protect others from infection.** If you are sick, stay at home. If your children are sick, keep them home from school. Call the 24-hour hotline (406-890-7272) with any questions or guidance on testing sites.
- **If your children have been placed in quarantine, please keep them at home.**
- **Wash your hands** thoroughly and frequently.
- **Wear a face covering in public spaces** and change it daily.
- **Give each other six feet of personal space** and reconsider attending or hosting large gatherings.

Practiced collectively, these precautions can help change the course of this pandemic, especially if practiced outside of school as well as in school. Please help us stop the surge, reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our community, and keep our schools safely open.

Thank you, again, for your continued support,

The COVID-19 School Advisory Council:

Micah Hill, Superintendent, Kalispell
Dave Wick, Superintendent, Columbia Falls
Dave Means, Superintendent, Whitefish
Laurie Barron, Superintendent, Evergreen
Matt Jensen, Superintendent, Bigfork
Jeremy Marsh, Head of School, Stillwater Christian School
Bill Sullivan, Director of Operational Accountability, Kalispell Public Schools
Andy Maheras, Superintendent/Principal, Helena Flats School
Teresa Litchfield, Parent and Epidemiologist
Tamalee Robinson, Flathead City-County Health Department
Kerry Knuckles, Flathead City-County Health Department
Brittany Coburn, NP-C, School-Based Clinic, North Valley Hospital
Ryan Pitts, RN, Kalispell Regional Healthcare Chief Nursing Officer
Craig Lambrecht, MD, Kalispell Regional Healthcare President and CEO