



Kent County Board of Education

Growing a Community of Leaders

Dr. Karen M. Couch
Office of the Superintendent

January 18, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Effective January 1, 2022, the Maryland Department of Health identified new K-12 Outbreak Definitions for a classroom COVID-19 outbreak and a school-wide COVID-19 outbreak. The revised definitions:

School-wide outbreak definition:

Five or more cohorts with cases from separate households that meet the classroom/cohort outbreak definition that occurs within 14 days; **OR**

5 percent or more unrelated students/teachers/staff have confirmed COVID-19 within a 14-day period [minimum of 10 unrelated students/teachers/staff].

Currently, Garnet Elementary meets the definition of a school-wide COVID-19 outbreak with more than 5% or unrelated confirmed COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period.

Effective Wednesday, January 19, 2022, and in consultation with the Kent County Health Department, Garnet will be closed for five consecutive days. Although in-person learning will be suspended for the remainder of the week, students should log onto Schoology (Wednesday-Friday) to continue with virtual learning. Paper packets will be made available for students without internet access.

Lunch and breakfast will be available for pickup at the vestibule from 11:00 am- 1:00 pm. **Monday, January 24, 2022, students will report back to school for in-person learning.**

Instructional staff will work virtually from home on Wednesday, January 19th, to allow ample time for the custodians to disinfect the building. **Instructional staff should report to work on Thursday, January 20, 2022, to teach virtually from their classrooms for the remainder of the week.**

Respectfully,

Dr. Karen M. Couch
Superintendent