



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- AMENDED 2:00 pm

March 16, 2021

Oxford, MI- Oxford Community Schools has been successfully delivering in-person instruction since August 31, 2020. We have been operating a robust PreK-12 virtual academy for over a decade so we were confident in offering our families the choice between a full-time online experience or one fully face-to-face in our buildings.

It came to our attention on March 10 a number of large social gatherings, unrelated to school events, had occurred over the previous weekend. Upon hearing the news of the first cases tied to these specific social events, we agreed as an administration to be prudent and immediately transition to remote learning at Oxford High School for both March 11 and 12. As we discovered new cases throughout the week, on Friday, March 12 we chose to extend the remote learning window through this week. At present, there are 21 active COVID-19 student cases at Oxford High School resulting in 195 quarantines. Our decision to move to remote learning is fueled by our desire to stop any further transmission, keep our staff and students safe, and continue an equitable education.

Our building administrators and parents have been incredibly diligent and supportive in contact tracing. We are very proud of our students, our staff, and our community. This small setback does not define us and we look forward to seeing our students back at Oxford High School next week. It is our goal and expectation that we return to in-person learning on Monday, March 22.

Since the beginning of the school year, Oxford Community Schools is aware of two potential in-school transmissions of the coronavirus in the district. The overwhelming majority of cases and spread of the coronavirus have occurred outside of school, but have impacted our operations and ability to offer programs in-person. Schools continue to be a **safe** place for students. Each day we strive to provide a world-class education that challenges our students to achieve their maximum potential in academics, arts, and athletics and prepares them to succeed in an ever changing global society.

### **Amendment:**

As the day has progressed, we have seen the number of COVID-19 cases steadily increase at our middle school. We currently have 12 active cases at Oxford Middle School resulting in approximately 100 quarantined students. Given this new information, we believe it would be safest to temporarily shift the middle school to remote learning for the remainder of the week as well.

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