



Canton

Union School District #66

Rolf Sivertsen- Superintendent
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July 17, 2020

Parents, Friends, and Guardians:

At the outset, the number one priority of the Canton School District is to provide a safe and healthy environment for our students, staff, and their families. We have taken that priority very seriously and will continue to do so. Simply put, the children, families, and staff of the Canton School District are our most important asset.

On June 23, 2020 the Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Department of Public Health released school guidelines intended to protect students from contracting the Corona Virus. After the release of the guidelines the Canton School District provided training for all coaches and followed them religiously – like all schools. However, regardless of the aforementioned guidelines, some schools have reported student COVID 19 infections in our area and throughout Illinois. Specifically the following incidents have been reported:

- 1 Dunlap School District football player infected after participating in a sports camp
- 1 Peoria Notre Dame football player infected after participating in a sports camp
- 36 Student athletes within the Lake Zurich School District infected after participating in multiple training camps.

Even though our district has only learned of three incidents there is a feeling more undiagnosed cases may exist throughout Illinois.

Unfortunately, even while following the guidelines we do not feel our district is able to provide an environment that protects our students, staff, and their families from COVID infection. For example, we have followed the guidelines by taking temperatures daily, promoted personal hygiene (hand sanitizer, limiting hydration cross contamination, cleaned and sanitized equipment daily) and directed students and staff to use masks. In spite of implementing all the aforementioned procedures we still do not feel we are able to reduce infection risk 100%. As a result, I have directed our athletic and activities department to temporarily suspend all training camps and activities until further notice. This is a decision that was not taken lightly. I fully understand the importance the camps and activities provided for our students. However, I cannot with a clear conscience risk the health and well-being of the members and children of our community for any reason.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rolf A. Sivertsen".

Rolf A. Sivertsen
Superintendent
Canton Schools