

November 15, 2020

Dear Parents and Staff:

We were notified over the weekend of a COVID-19 case at Reed Intermediate School. In this case, the Principal of Reed, Dr. Correia, will also need to quarantine out of an abundance of caution. Assistant Superintendent, Anne Uberti, will be the administrator in charge beginning on Monday, November 16th. Dr. Correia, however, will continue to work remotely in supporting the operation of his school.

Through contact tracing in partnership with our Director of Health, those who had close contact with a COVID positive individual will be asked to quarantine. The Connecticut DPH defines close contact as spending at least 15 minutes (within one day) within 6 feet of a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 during their infectious period, or having direct contact with an infected person's droplets (e.g., cough, sneeze). Anyone who is considered a close contact has been or is in the process of being notified by local health officials and provided with instructions for the appropriate steps to take.

As always, please continue to discuss the following preventive measures with your children and family members:

- Wash your hands frequently, especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to wash your fingertips. When soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze inside the elbow of your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Wear a face covering (mask) whenever there is a likelihood that you or your family members will be in the presence of others.
- Maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet) between yourself and others when outside of your home.

Below is the list of COVID-19 symptoms for which everyone should monitor in their family members:

- Fever (100.4° Fahrenheit or higher)
- Chills or shaking chills
- Uncontrolled new cough (not due to other known cause)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell

As always, staff and students exhibiting any of the above symptoms, or feeling ill, should call their medical provider to report their symptoms and ask about testing prior to seeking in-person care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital.

For more information on what to do if you or a family member has possible symptoms, a diagnosis, or exposure to COVID-19, please see:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/Addendum-5-Interim-Guidance-for-Responding-to-COVID-19-Scenarios-in-CT-School-Districts.pdf>

Please be assured that Newtown Public Schools continues to sanitize and disinfect all buildings and classrooms throughout the week.

We will continue to provide you with timely updates to keep you informed. You can also visit our website at www.newtown.k12.ct.us to review previous communication and COVID data trend reports for both Newtown, the country, and other towns in the Western CT and Litchfield areas.

Stay well.

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue, Superintendent