

Confirmed COVID-19 Case in School

Dear Parents and Staff:

Today, September 15, the district was notified that a member of our school community has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). The individual experienced symptoms on Saturday, September 12. The affected person has had no connection to any building at all this year and is not currently in school. However, the individual did have limited contact with a small group outdoors after school, which warranted contact tracing through the office of the Director of Health in partnership with Newtown Public Schools.

Anyone who is considered a “close contact” with this person would have been contacted or will be contacted by school or local health officials and provided with instructions on the appropriate steps to take. We have not received any other reports of students or staff members experiencing illnesses with symptoms resembling those of COVID-19.

As you know, COVID-19 is spread mainly via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge everyone to continue to discuss the following preventive measures with your children and family members:

- Wash your hands frequently, but especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also 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, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell

For additional information on COVID-19 symptoms, please see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

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>

We will continue to provide you with updates to keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lorrie Rodrigue, Superintendent