



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 220 • East Lyme, Connecticut 06333 • (860) 739-3966 • Fax (860) 739-1215

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November 10, 2020

Dear ELPS Staff, Parents, and/or Guardians,

Today, November 10, 2020 East Lyme Public Schools was notified that three members of our school/district community (individuals from East Lyme High School, East Lyme Middle School, and Lillie B. Haynes School) have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). The affected persons have been instructed to remain home in self-isolation and have been provided with additional instructions to follow prior to returning to their school building.

The last day attended by the East Lyme High School and Lillie B. Haynes School infected individuals was Friday, November 6, 2020. The last day attended by the East Lyme Middle School individual was October 29, 2020. Ledge Light Health District has been notified of all three cases for contact tracing purposes. Anyone who is considered a “close contact” with the infected individuals will be contacted by school or local health officials and will be provided with instructions on the appropriate steps to take.

Each of these three cases is isolated to their specific building. Given that tomorrow (Wednesday) is a remote learning day for all students, we will finalize any direct building impact by mid-morning. Our plan and hope is to keep all three schools open given these are single isolated cases in each building. **If we need to take further action and temporarily close either East Lyme High School, East Lyme Middle School or Lillie B. Haynes switching to remote instruction, I will directly communicate that out to parents and staff tomorrow, Wednesday, November 11, 2020.** Our other school buildings (Flanders Elementary School, Niantic Center School and our Central Office building) are not impacted by these three cases. Again, if there is a need to take any further action in temporarily closing a building, I will inform parents tomorrow through a separate communication.

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 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.

East Lyme Public Schools will inspire, engage and educate each student to become a contributing citizen and a responsible, independent, and critical thinker.



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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 remain home and 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 Addendum 5: Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts, available here: <https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/COVID-19-Resources-for-Families-and-Educators/Addendums-and-FAQs>

We are closely monitoring these cases and we will provide you with updates if any further specific information comes forth. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office or Ledge Light Health District.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

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