



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

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November 15, 2020

Dear ELPS Staff, Parents, and/or Guardians,

This weekend, East Lyme Public Schools was notified that members of our school/district community (**Four isolated cases to an ELHS sports team and one case specific to Niantic Center 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 infected individuals was on Friday, November 6, 2020 and Tuesday, November 10, 2020. The Niantic Center School infected individual was on Wednesday, November 12, 2020. Ledge Light Health District has completed contact tracing with these cases. 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.

East Lyme High School and Niantic Center School will remain open for students and staff on Monday, November 16, 2020. From what we currently know, the COVID-19 cases that have come forth across our schools are not stemming from contact or transmissions between students or staff in our buildings. Infections are coming from outside/community contact that is occurring (beyond the school day) or sporting activities that have recently occurred. I encourage our school community to continue to engage in mask wearing when outside of your home. We are doing everything we can to keep our schools open in a safe manner. We need your ongoing help and support in doing so.

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>

If you have any 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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