



## EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

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October 1, 2020

Dear ELPS Staff, Parents, and/or Guardians,

This evening, October 1, 2020 East Lyme Public Schools was notified that a member of our school community (East Lyme Middle School only) has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). The affected person has been instructed to remain home in self-isolation and has been provided with additional instructions to follow prior to returning to school.

The last day this person attended East Lyme Middle School was Tuesday, September 29, 2020. Ledge Light Health District has been notified to begin contact tracing regarding this situation. Anyone who is considered a “close contact” with this person will be contacted by school or local health officials and will be provided with instructions on the appropriate steps to take.

This middle school case is isolated within the building. However, to err on the side of caution the building will be closed tomorrow, Friday, October 2, 2020 to allow for the thorough completion of contact tracing. We will reopen the middle school to students on Monday, October 5, 2020. It has been deemed safe to keep all other school buildings open given no contact has been made regarding this case in any other building. **During this temporary one-day on-site closure tomorrow, the education of children will continue at the middle school remotely, and teachers and students will still follow Cohort B schedules.**

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.

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)

*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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- 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 this situation and we will provide you with updates if any further specific information comes forth regarding this case. 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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