



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

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September 21, 2020

Dear ELPS Staff, Parents, and/or Guardians,

Today, September 21, 2020 East Lyme Public Schools was notified that a member of our school community (East Lyme High 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 High School was Monday, September 14, 2020, seven days ago. Ledge Light Health District has started immediate contact tracing regarding this situation. Anyone who is considered a “close contact” with this person has been contacted, or will be contacted, by school or local health officials and will be provided with instructions on the appropriate steps to take.

In working with the health professionals at Ledge Light Health District, we have found this case to be isolated. However, to err on the side of caution the high school will be closed tomorrow, Tuesday, September 22, 2020 to allow for the thorough completion of contact tracing across the building. We will reopen the high school to students on Thursday, September 24, 2020. After conferring with Ledge Light Health District and our Medical Advisor, 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 high school remotely, and teachers and students will still follow Cohort schedules. In addition, Wednesday will be a remote learning day.**

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 this situation and working with Ledge Light Health District along with our Medical Advisor regarding all decision making. We will provide you with updates if any further specific information comes forth regarding this isolated 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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