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Confirmed COVID-19 Case in School

April 27, 2021

Dear Parents and Community Members:

On Tuesday, April 27, 2021, Canterbury Public Schools was notified that a member of our school community has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). The affected person has been instructed to remain home and quarantine for 10 days.

The last day this person was in the Dr. Helen Baldwin Middle School was Monday, April 26, 2021. Anyone who is considered a “close contact” with this person has been contacted by the school and provided with instructions on the appropriate steps to take.

Through our investigation and as a precautionary measure, several individuals were identified as close contacts. Those individuals will transition to a full remote schedule in order to provide for the safety of students, staff, and others in the school community.

Only those individuals that have been contacted will transition to a remote learning schedule.

At this time, schools will remain open for in-person learning.

As a reminder, 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.

If you feel ill, stay 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 are closely monitoring this situation and working with the Northeast District Department of Health and will provide you with updates as we know more. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven Rioux

Superintendent of Schools