



COVID-19 Case Notification

September 23, 2020

Dear FPS Parents, Guardians, and Staff;

This email is to notify you that additional individuals at Fairfield Ludlowe High School have tested positive for COVID-19, and have been in close contact with one or more individuals in the school community and beyond.

As a result, Fairfield Ludlowe High School will be closed on Thursday, September 24 and Friday, September 25 to allow for cleaning and contact tracing. Students will follow the [remote schedule](#) published last week.

First, let me reassure you that the protocols we have put in place are working. Health and safety protocols were followed in consultation with Sands Cleary, Director of the Fairfield Health Department, and Jill Mitchell RN, Nursing Supervisor.

- The Fairfield Health Department received notification of this positive result directly from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CDPH), and immediately reached out to the individuals to begin contact tracing.
- Anyone who has been in close contact with these individuals is being contacted by a member of the Fairfield Health Department Contact Tracing Team.
- CDC and CDPH protocols require that all individuals who came into close contact with the affected individual self-quarantine for 14 days.

Second, I understand that it's human nature to want to draw a connection between the case reported yesterday and today's cases. However, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)/Department of Public Health (DPH) guidance ([Addendum 9](#)) indicates that decisions for exclusion from school and quarantine will be based on the individual circumstances of each case, including those who have spent a significant amount of time (i.e. more than 15 minutes) in the presence of a positive case, regardless of mask wearing. Working closely with the Fairfield Health Department, it was determined that the circumstances of these cases are significantly different and warrant a different response.

While many in the school community would prefer more specific information about the individuals involved, we are required to comply with all applicable laws and regulations regarding student and employee confidentiality and privacy. Information related to case investigations is confidential and private health information will not be disclosed by FPS or the Fairfield Health Department. We will continue to keep the school community informed of all

positive cases and how we are responding. Contact tracing interviews will determine the appropriate response options, so one case might look a little different from another.

We need to keep in mind that we are educating our students in the midst of a global pandemic. We will continue to confront new cases and new situations. We will learn lessons from each event and improve over time. We will continue to educate and protect our children to the very best of our ability.

Finally, we count on each other to each do our part to slow the spread and protect our community. This means using mitigation strategies (i.e., masks, social distancing), both in and outside of school. It also means being transparent and keeping us informed about changes in your family's health.

We are monitoring this situation very closely and will continue to keep you informed of any changes or additional information.

Respectfully,

Mike Cummings
FPS Superintendent

Angelus Papageorge
COVID-19 Health And Safety Compliance Liaison

Important Definitions:



Case: Individual who tests positive for SARS-CoV-2 by laboratory-confirmed PCR or Antigen Test.



Close Contact: A person exposed to a Case; i.e., spend 15 minutes or more within six feet of a Case, with or without a mask.



School setting: classroom, other interior school location, bus stop, bus or other form of transportation, school grounds, or school-related event held at other locations.