



District Notification of Positive COVID-19 Case

October 27, 2020

Dear FPS Parents, Guardians, and Staff;

This morning there are several new cases across the district. In response to questions we have received lately, I want to remind you about the protocols in place when a student tests positive.

First, let me reassure you that the protocols are working. The process is the same for both students and staff. Health and safety protocols are followed in consultation with Sands Cleary, Director of the Fairfield Health Department, and Jill Mitchell RN, Nursing Supervisor.

- The Fairfield Health Department receives notification of positive test results directly from the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CDPH), and immediately reaches out to the individual and their school to begin contact tracing. Staff who reside outside of Fairfield contact their building administrator, who in turn reaches out to the Fairfield Health Department and Central Office.
- Close contacts in the school setting are identified by the School Nurse, Principal and Central Office working with the Fairfield Health Department's Contact Tracing Team.
- Close contact is defined by the CDC as a person exposed for 15 minutes (cumulative in a 24 hour period), or more within six feet of a positive Case, up to two days prior to the onset of symptoms (or positive test in the case of asymptomatic persons). Keep in mind reducing our current 6 foot distancing dramatically increases the number of individuals who would be identified as close contacts and need to quarantine for 14 days.
- 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.
- The Contact Tracing Team follows individuals who test positive, as well as those in quarantine on a daily basis to be sure that they are symptom and fever-free before returning to school.
- To date, our positive cases have been as a result of contact with a positive case in their household or outside of school. By going back two days before the onset of symptoms (or positive test result), we are identifying anyone in school who may be at risk. Placing close contacts immediately into quarantine in turn keeps the virus from being transmitted within the school, along with the current effective mitigation measures.

- We evaluate each situation on a case-by-case basis to determine the need for building closure to allow for contact tracing and cleaning. Many times, the individual has not been in the building for two days prior, due to previously being quarantined, having stayed home awaiting test results, or being out of school due to symptoms. In these cases, there may be no close contacts identified and buildings do not need to close. In other cases, the Contact Tracing Team is able to identify any close contacts and have them quarantine immediately, so again there is no need for building closure or additional cleaning measures. In situations where we need more time for contact tracing or an individual has exhibited symptoms in the building, we will make a decision as to whether the building needs to close and for how long.

Today's notification of positive cases includes one individual at Fairfield Warde High School, three at Fairfield Ludlowe High Schools, an individual at Dwight Elementary School, and one fully remote student. Based on the protocols described above, contact tracing has been confirmed for all these cases and any close contacts are now in quarantine.

If there is a need for anyone else to self-quarantine, they will be contacted directly by a member of the Fairfield Health Department Contact Tracing Team.

Information related to case investigations is confidential and private health information will not be disclosed by FPS or the Fairfield Health Department. Health and safety protocols were followed in consultation with Sands Cleary, Director of the Fairfield Health Department, and Jill Mitchell RN, Nursing Supervisor.

The safety of our community is our priority. We are monitoring this situation 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: Person exposed for 15 minutes or more, cumulative in a 24 hour period, within six feet of a Case.



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.