



# SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Preparing students with the knowledge, skills, and attributes  
required for success in a rapidly changing world.*



November 16, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Faculty & Staff:

On November 16, 2020, the Suffield Public Schools was notified that a member of the McAlister Intermediate School community has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). The affected person has been instructed to remain home in self-isolation for 14 days and have been provided with additional instructions to follow prior to returning to school. Family members have also been instructed to self-quarantine and get tested.

Due to the circumstance and our district's ability to contact trace this matter, we can confirm that there was no exposure to students or staff in the school that would require a quarantine.

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)
- 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 North Central District Health Department and will provide you with updates as we know more. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Diana Kelley, Director of Special Services

CC: Timothy M. Van Tasel, Superintendent  
North Central District Health Department  
Dr. Richard Segool, Medical Advisor  
Connecticut State Department of Education