



District Notification of Positive COVID-19 Cases

November 18, 2020

Dear FPS Parents, Guardians, and Staff;

The State Department of Health issued an updated Travel Advisory yesterday. It addresses questions we have received regarding visiting an affected state for less than 72 hours. Please read the attached updated version for more information.

Given the current health data, please consider driving your child to/from school, if possible. Current mitigation strategies on our buses include bus cohorts, masks, loading/unloading restrictions, and K-5 assigned seats). Students may still need to be quarantined if they are identified as having close contact on the bus, as defined by the CDC.

Today, we have the following new positive cases:

Fairfield Warde 1

Holland Hill 1

Riverfield 1

Contact tracing has been confirmed and any close contacts are now in quarantine. No building closures are indicated. 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.

Contact Tracing: Close contacts in the school setting will be identified by the School Nurse, Principal and Central Office working with the Fairfield Health Department's Contact Tracing Team and advised to quarantine for 14 days.



Thanksgiving Advisory **Update 11/18/20**

We know the holidays will be very different this year for most families. While there is much to be thankful for, we want to remind you of a few important health guidelines as you make your Thanksgiving plans:

1. Reconsider travel

The State Department of Health has issued an updated [Travel Advisory](#) as of 11/17/20. Please check the site prior to travel for the most current information. Anyone visiting an Affected State, including children, must quarantine for 14 days upon return or have a negative RT-PCR test for COVID-19 in the seventy-two (72) hours prior to returning or at any time following arrival in Connecticut. **You cannot test out prior to leaving CT if your trip to an affected state is less than 72 hours and more than 24 hours.**

From the State [Travel Advisory](#) FAQs :

19. What if I am a Connecticut resident and am visiting an Affected State for less than seventy-two (72) hours, may I be tested in Connecticut prior to visiting the Affected State if I obtain the test seventy-two (72) hours prior to my subsequent return to Connecticut?

No, you must have the test for COVID-19 either while you are in the Affected State, as long as the test is obtained in the seventy-two (72) hours prior to your arrival in Connecticut, or following your arrival in Connecticut.

If you have college students returning home for Thanksgiving, encourage them to get tested before their Thanksgiving departure, refrain from traveling if they test positive, limit travel stops, and self-quarantine for 14 days at home upon arrival.

2. Keep it small

Limit gatherings to less than 10 people who are close family and friends who have followed social distancing guidelines.

Even if you and your guests receive a negative test before gathering, you should still practice mask wearing and social distancing.

3. Outdoors is safer

If the weather permits, gather outside. Keep windows open to allow for greater air exchange.

4. Be vigilant about hand hygiene

Wash hands before eating. Don't share serving utensils. The CDC has more information at [COVID-19: Holiday Celebrations](#).



Thanksgiving: What You Need to Know



With the holiday season approaching, many families are making decisions and plans about how to celebrate in a way that is joyful but still safe.

The decisions every family makes today can have an effect on what life is like a few months from now.

No matter how you celebrate, continue to wash hands frequently, practice social distancing, wear a mask when in public, and importantly, stay home if you or anyone you have been exposed to is sick.



The safest ways to celebrate Thanksgiving are to only do it with members of your same household or to host a virtual celebration.

However, there are ways to decrease risk when gathering:



Outdoors is safer

If weather allows it, host Thanksgiving outdoors where people can practice social distancing.



Be vigilant about hand hygiene

Guests should wash hands before eating and hosts should practice consistent hand hygiene while cooking. Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizers to guests and family.



Keep it small

Limit gatherings to less than 10 people and those attending should only be close family members or friends who have followed social distancing guidelines.



Reconsider travel

Travel increases the risk of getting and spreading COVID-19. Many states have implemented mandatory quarantine periods for out-of-state visitors, which could also affect people when returning home.

If travel is a must, there are a few ways to lower risk:

- Driving is safer than flying, traveling by bus, or taking a train.
- Wear a mask in public, wash hands frequently, and keep distance from others during the trip.
- Travelers who are staying in one destination should follow local quarantine guidance.
- Travelers should seek testing once they've arrived at their location, but still continue to follow quarantine guidance.