



PARKLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Administration Center

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ParklandSchoolDistrict



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January 15, 2021

Dear Orefield Middle School Staff and Parents/Guardians,

I wanted to make you aware that we were notified today by the Department of Health that three individuals that were last in attendance at Orefield Middle School on January 8 (all 3 individuals) have subsequently tested positive for COVID-19. Due to procedures related to privacy laws, I am limited in what I can say. I urge you to also respect the privacy of our students and staff.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH) is monitoring these individuals. The PA DOH is responsible for all contact tracing and school district administration has assisted our public health officials with this endeavor. Staff members and students that are determined to be a close contact with this individual will be directly contacted by PA DOH with instructions to quarantine. Close contacts are those who are within 6 feet distance for greater than or equal to 15 minutes with a person identified as a confirmed case with COVID-19. Those individuals identified as a close contact have already been contacted and instructed to quarantine.

Per PA DOH Recommendations for Large (>900 students) Pre-K to 12 School Buildings Following Identification of a Case(s) of COVID-19, we have determined because of the number of cases of COVID-19 within a rolling 14 day period at Orefield Middle School, and after consultation with PA DOH, we will need to close our school from Saturday, January 16 through Wednesday, January 20 to perform appropriate contact tracing, communicate appropriately any required quarantine recommendations and to continue to clean and disinfect our buildings. All students will continue their education via remote learning during the school closure and should check Schoology for directions and/or assignments from your teacher(s). Staff will also work remotely during the school closure. We will reopen Orefield Middle School for hybrid instruction on Thursday, January 21, 2021.

Anyone experiencing symptoms should self-quarantine and contact your doctor. If you are feeling ill, it is recommended that you separate from others in the home, wear a face mask, cover coughs and sneezes, clean hands and surfaces often, and avoid sharing personal items. It should be emphasized that anyone who is ill should stay home except to get medical care. As you know, virus symptoms can range from mild to severe and could include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills without a fever, sore throat, muscle aches and pains, and temporary loss of smell or taste. Symptoms may appear in a few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure. If you have questions or concerns regarding your individual health and COVID-19, please contact your primary care physician. We thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Sniscak
Superintendent of Schools
Parkland School District