



EASTERN LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 21, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

With the health and safety of our students, staff and community members being of utmost importance, we are reaching out to share with you that we have recently been made aware of a staff/student at Garden Spot High School who tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. In light of this positive case and in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and our local Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health contacts, we want to let you know that individuals who may have been in close contact with the person testing positive were notified and instructed to quarantine. Those individuals who are determined to be close contacts (within six-feet for fifteen consecutive minutes or more) are required to quarantine at home and away from others for up to, depending on when contact occurred, 14 calendar days and should not attend school during this time. Quarantine separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease to see if they become sick. You will be contacted immediately if your child has been in close contact with someone who tests positive and is therefore, potentially, at risk of being exposed to COVID-19. Please do not contact the school to check on cases, we will contact anyone impacted directly. **If your child was in close contact to the individual who tested positive, you should have already been notified by the District.**

As we continue to navigate this new school year, we want to remind our community about a few things.

- If your child has a COVID test for any reason, we require the child to stay out of school until the test results are returned or a doctor provides a note to release the child back to school.
- We continue to rigorously clean and disinfect all buildings and follow all the protocols articulated in our health and safety plans to lessen the risk of spread. We appreciate the assistance of our teachers and staff in this endeavor, and we appreciate our students adhering to our facial covering and social distancing procedures.
- Additionally, there may be times when students or staff members are absent or are asked to isolate for a variety of reasons, including having flu-like symptoms, which may later be determined to be unrelated to COVID-19. Our school nurses and building administrators monitor attendance and medical excuses daily to ensure all recommendations for isolation or quarantine are followed. There will also be times when students or staff members are absent unrelated to COVID-19. We encourage our students and families not to make any assumptions or judgements about anyone who is absent from school.
- All COVID-related communication and resources are easily accessible on our website.
- Please feel free to contact any administrator with questions about this process.

To preserve each individual's right to privacy, no further details are able to be provided. Our thoughts are with the individuals impacted by this illness and especially to the individual and family members of the person who tested positive.

Thank you for your continued partnership.

Respectfully,

Robert M. Hollister, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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