

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in School

Dear Parents and Community Members:

Even though we are all physically out of the buildings at this time, we feel that it is important to keep you informed. Today, November 16, 2020, the Seymour Board of Education was notified that two more of our staff members from Seymour Middle School have tested positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19). The affected staff have been instructed to remain home in self-isolation. Family members have also been instructed to self-quarantine.

These staff members were not physically in school so there was no further contact tracing needed. Our hearts go out to them and their families. We wish them a speedy and full recovery.

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

In addition to the above symptoms please be aware that sore throat, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea and headache may also be symptoms associated with COVID 19.

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 Naugatuck Valley Health District and will provide you with updates as we know more. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michael Wilson
Superintendent of Seymour Schools