

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in School District

November 6, 2020

Dear Parents and Community Members:

On November 6, 2020, the Seymour Board of Education was notified that three students from Chatfield-LoPresti and Seymour Middle School have unfortunately tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). While one middle school student has not been in our building at all, the other two students last attended their schools on Monday of this week (November 2) but tested positive on Wednesday, and informed us today. Our hearts go out to them and their families and we wish them a speedy and full recovery. While we cannot share the full details for privacy reasons, we can inform you that, following our discussions with the Naugatuck Valley Health District, and guidance from the State Department of Public Health, several classrooms in the middle school and one classroom in the elementary school will need to quarantine for a 14-day period. Several staff members will also quarantine for a 14-day period.

As you are aware, our protocols require in-depth contact tracing which has already commenced by both our Head Nurse as well as by the Naugatuck Valley Health District. Any staff or students who came into contact with a positive individual are considered primary contacts by CDC guidelines. As such, these individuals will be contacted directly by either our Head Nurse, Rebecca Bennett, Deborah Julian RN, or Lisa Reynolds RN, within the next 24 hours. Primary contacts are required to remain home and quarantine for 14 days. Please also remember, that if you are not contacted, then you are not considered to have been in contact. Please answer the phone if Seymour Schools contacts you. A contact tracer may be trying to reach you with important information.

The affected people have been instructed to remain home in self-isolation for 14 days and have been provided with additional instructions to follow prior to returning to their school's hybrid learning program. Family members have also been instructed to self-quarantine.

Coronavirus Information

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, Seymour Schools

Vonda Tencza
Associate Superintendent, Seymour Schools