

NORTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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Susan Voss



John A. Provost, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Camie Lamica, CPA.
Business Administrator

May 7, 2021

Dear RKFRR Staff and Caregivers,

We are writing to inform you of a positive case of COVID-19 within our school community. We are not at liberty to provide any personal information identifying a school community member who has tested positive. We have engaged our process of identifying staff and/or students that may be considered a close contact per the Massachusetts Department of Public Health guidelines. A close contact is defined as: Someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the positive case is isolated. If you have been contacted by a public health staff member, please follow the guidance and recommendations given. If you have been identified as a close contact, you are required to quarantine at home per guidance given from public health, even if you have had a negative PCR test for COVID-19. Close contacts will be notified privately. **If you have not been contacted, you are not considered to be a close contact and no further action is required.**

We have planned for this scenario and have a comprehensive plan in place to sanitize the school per current guidelines, and to follow all health and safety protocols and guidance as outlined by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, the CDC and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Our staff and students have been closely following mitigating measures that include, mask/cloth face covering wearing, hand- washing / sanitizing, and physical distancing. We are grateful for families, staff and caregivers for their continued efforts to stay home at the first signs of COVID- like symptoms. These measures, taken in combination, greatly reduce the risk of additional transmission.

As symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to other illnesses, please follow-up with your primary care provider for referral to PCR testing. If any of the following symptoms are present, stay home, contact your care provider and contact your school nurse. Please refer to the checklist located on our district website

<http://www.northamptonschools.org/project/covid/>

Symptoms:

- Fever (greater than 100.0) , chills, or shaking chills
- Cough(not associated with a documented known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing, shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- Muscle aches or body aches
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other documented causes , such as allergies)

For more information regarding testing and testing sites , please visit :

<https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-testing>

<https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095febf13>

We thank you for your continued support. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please email lsafron@northampton-k12.us or call 413-587-1364.

John Provost, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Lisa Safron BSN,RN,NCSN
Director of Health Services