



WINCHENDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Working Together”

Joan Landers

Superintendent of Schools

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November 17, 2020

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you that last evening we were informed of a Toy Town Elementary student who became symptomatic for COVID-19 on Sunday and was last in a classroom on Friday, November 13, 2020. The student was not in school Monday, November 16, 2020, but was having a COVID-19 test. Erring on the side of caution, we contacted individuals considered close contacts by CDC guidelines and all families of the students in the student's classroom.

Our first responsibility is to keep our students and staff safe. We continue to remind our student body and staff to adhere to the safety protocols including, mask-wearing, hand washing, and social distancing. These measures, taken in combination, significantly reduce the risk of additional transmission. As a reminder, our general notification guidance is as follows:

- We will notify close contacts of anyone who is symptomatic or tests positive.
- If someone is asymptomatic but tests positive, close contacts will be notified as a result of the positive test.
- If someone is asymptomatic OR tests negative, no notifications are required.

To further prevent transmission of the virus to other staff and students, we have sanitized the classroom and building with a focus on those areas frequented by the symptomatic student. We will continue to be vigilant in adhering to all of the protocols that have been put in place. We are also providing remote learning for all students required to quarantine at home to continue to provide instruction, structure, and an emotional connection to the classroom during a time that we know will be challenging for those children and families involved.

For more information on COVID-19 symptoms and testing, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?>.

You can also find a map of testing sites at

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

Please contact us immediately should you or someone in your home begin to show symptoms or test positive for Covid-19.

We are committed to continuous communication with and support of our families and staff. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Thad King at (tking@winchendonk12.org or 978-616-1490). If there is additional transmission as a result of this case or a separate case, we will send out another message immediately. Thank you for your continued support.

To protect the privacy rights of all involved, no information about students will be released to the district or community.

We ask anyone who has become aware of the identities of any school students involved to respect their rights by refraining from identifying them to others in any form of communication inclusive of email and social media.

Sincerely,

Joan Landers, Superintendent Thad King, COVID-19 Lead