



## WINCHENDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Working Together”

Joan Landers

Superintendent of Schools

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January 6, 2021

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you that we learned today a Murdock High School Student who was in school on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> has tested positive for COVID-19. All individuals deemed close contacts by DESE guidelines will be contacted directly and we will work in conjunction with the Board of Health to complete contact tracing. **Due to the number of staff members deemed close contacts we will need to pivot immediately to remote learning at Murdock High School until January 19<sup>th</sup>.**

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 physical social distancing. These measures, taken in combination, greatly 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 school with a focus on those areas frequented by the student who tested positive. We will continue to be vigilant in adhering to all of the protocols that have been put in place. We are 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=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095feb13>.

Please contact us immediately should you or someone in your home begin to show symptoms or test positive of 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](mailto: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.

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

We ask everyone who has become aware of the identities of any students involved to respect their rights as well by refraining from identifying them to others, in any form of communication. This includes email and social media.

Sincerely,

Joan Landers  
Superintendent  
Winchendon Public Schools

Thad King  
COVID-19 Lead