



Caletha White, Ed. D
Superintendent of Schools

**Park Forest-Chicago Heights
School District 163
242 S. Orchard Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9427
www.sd163.com**

May 16, 2022

Dear Michelle Obama Families,

This letter is to inform you that on May 14 we were informed that an individual in the seventh grade at Michelle Obama School has tested positive for COVID-19. The health and safety of our students and staff is our highest priority, and we recognize the uncertainty and concern regarding the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. We are following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the state and local health departments for best practices and procedures to protect everyone’s health. We immediately implemented steps in our emergency response plan to minimize the impact in our school environment and to keep all students and staff healthy and safe. We want you to be aware of the following actions:

- The individual directly impacted has been requested to comply with the 5-day isolation period recommended by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
- We have communicated directly with any specific employees and families who are believed to have come in close contact with the individual in the preceding 2-3 days.
- We have followed the recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting facilities
- Ongoing monitoring of students and staff for signs and symptoms of illness to promptly identify community spread

For reasons of privacy and confidentiality, we are not sharing the name of the individual directly impacted. We are working with the impacted individual to communicate the benefits and support available on behalf of Park Forest-Chicago Heights School District 163 for a full recovery during this challenging time.

We continue to stay focused on prevention and social distancing practices in our schools to minimize the risk of infection:

- Wear a face covering snugly over your nose and mouth
- Avoid close contact with anyone who is sick and stay home if you are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- When eligible, get a COVID-19 vaccine to protect yourself and the people around you.
- Participate in weekly COVID testing

21st Century Primary Center
240 S. Orchard Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9490
Fax (708) 747-0261

Algonquin Pre-Kindergarten Center
170 Algonquin
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9200
Fax (708) 503-2267

Barack Obama School of Leadership and Stem
401 Concord Drive
Chicago Heights, IL 60411
(708) 668-9100
Fax (708) 283-2358

Blackhawk Primary Center
130 Blackhawk Drive
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9500
Fax (708) 481-0917

Mohawk Primary Center
301 Mohawk
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9300
Fax (708) 748-9738

Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts
530 Lakewood
Park Forest, IL 60466
(708) 668-9600
Fax (708) 503-2297

“Continuing to Build Positive and Effective Learning Communities”

The symptoms of coronavirus are similar to the regular seasonal influenza and may include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, and coughing. Some people with coronavirus have reported additional symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, nausea, loss of taste/smell, vomiting, and diarrhea. In some situations, the virus can develop into pneumonia.

We thank all families for your understanding and on-going cooperation with our prevention procedures as we work to help protect our students, staff and families. We will continue to enforce safe practices to prevent, promptly identify, and respond to potential COVID cases. We are committed to providing our students and our staff with a safe and healthy environment.

Please contact Dr. Regina Nottke, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services, at (708) 668-9403 or rnottke@sd163.com, or **Nurse Tammy Davis via email at tdavis@sd163.com or cell (708) 668-9674** with any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Timothy Craddock

Dr. Timothy Craddock
Principal