

**Press Release 8/12/2020**

It was brought to the attention of Highland CUSD No. 5 administration that a program assistant received results of a positive COVID test yesterday afternoon. Tuesday was the first day staff reported to work for a Teacher's Institute; which is not a student attendance day. The staff member had tested last Friday, prior to any school activity, and did not inform the district of such. The staff member was asymptomatic and experienced no evidence of illness. All staff were required to wear a mask and social distance during the institute day.

We continue to use mitigation strategies recommended by the CDC and Illinois State Board of Education. Our Return to School Plan includes protocol for these types of situations. Staff who may have been in close contact with the positive case have been notified and we continue to be in communication with the Madison County Health Department. There is no evidence of transmission within the school environment and will not change our current Return to School Plan. If at some point in time it appears that transmission is occurring within the school environment, a decision to move to a full remote learning environment will be considered.