

Watkins Glen Central School District
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District Parents/Guardians,

This afternoon, I notified you that a high school student in our district has tested positive for COVID-19. The student and the student's family have all been quarantined by the Schuyler County Public Health Office.

I was contacted by Schuyler County Public Health Office later this afternoon when they notified me that they made additional decisions related to this positive test. In consultation with the New York State Department of Health, our public health office has extended the quarantine numbers to include all this student's classmates and teachers with whom this student shared a classroom last Friday (the last day the student attended school).

It is important that we remember this is a public health crisis and decisions are made by health professionals. As a school, we take public health direction from the public health officials. The Schuyler County Public Health Office has notified - and will continue to notify - those students, student families, and staff members that must quarantine. As contact tracing continues, there may be need for additional quarantines - you will be notified if this relates to you or your child.

I have heard from parents and staff members who are, understandably, seeking further information and assurances. Please know that, when it comes to student health and safety, I will communicate as quickly and as thoroughly as I am able. However, I will not sacrifice accuracy for the sake of speed. I also must protect the privacy of all our community members and may not give information that might identify students, families, or staff members. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, I will communicate as I have today. I will not communicate age, gender, grade level, address/neighborhood, or any other individual or family identifiers. While this may be frustrating, I ask that you always make personal protection decisions for yourself and your family that will keep you safe, regardless of who you may or may not encounter. I remain committed to student/staff health and safety in school just as I remain committed to protecting student/staff privacy.

Please continue to contact me with any questions or concerns. I know you all join me in wishing a fast recovery for any of our students and community members who are impacted by this infection.

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"Watkins Glen: From Ingenuity Comes Triumph"