



Dear Middle School/High School Parent/Guardian(s):

It has come to the attention of the Newell School District that a middle school/high school teacher has tested positive for COVID-19. The teacher tested positive on Friday September 25<sup>th</sup> and was present at school on Thursday September 24<sup>th</sup>. The teacher was wearing a mask and practicing social distancing from students 48 hours prior to the test. As such, for the safety of other students and Newell School District staff, the high school teacher cannot be on campus for at least fourteen (14) calendar days from symptoms start date.

The COVID-19 virus is spread from person-to-person, mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Spread is more likely to occur when people are near each other (within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes). Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- Fever or chills
- Difficulty breathing
- Headache
- Congestion or runny nose
- Cough
- Fatigue
- Loss of taste or smell
- Nausea or vomiting
- Shortness of breath
- Muscle or body aches
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea

Recommendations:

1. Be watchful for symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 illness that may appear in your child during the next 14 days.
2. Take precautions to avoid illness, including:
  - a. Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer
  - b. Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others
  - c. Avoid close contact with people who are sick
  - d. Refrain from touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
  - e. Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue
  - f. Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects
  - g. Individuals at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness, such as older adults or people who have chronic medical conditions like heart, lung, or kidney disease, should take actions to reduce your risk of exposure (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>)

Sincerely,

Mr. Andrew Fergen  
Superintendent Newell School District  
501 Dartmouth Street  
Newell, SD 57760