

Dear Parents and Community Members:

This afternoon, Friday, Oct. 23, Woodstock Public Schools was notified that an individual at Woodstock Middle School has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

The last day this individual was in WMS was Tuesday, October 20. Anyone who is considered a “close contact” with this person will be contacted by school or local health officials and provided with instructions on the appropriate steps to take.

After consultation with the Northeast District Department of Health and based on the district’s reopening plan, we have decided to move the SEVENTH grade to the fully Remote Learning model for the next 2 weeks. This change will take effect immediately. In-person classes under the Hybrid Learning model will resume on Thursday, November 5. As all instruction for the SEVENTH grade will take place remotely during these next two weeks, all SEVENTH grade students should log in on Monday morning, Oct. 26 and follow the normal in school schedule.

The fifth, sixth, and eighth grades will continue to operate in the Hybrid Learning model as they are now; however, as we continue to work with NDDH officials on contact tracing it might be necessary to also shift these three grades to the fully Remote Learning model. If such a transition is necessary, we will inform you as soon as possible.

In addition, fifth, sixth, and eighth grade families have the option to switch their child/ren to the fully Remote Learning model through November 5. We ask that families who choose this option alert the WMS office via email by Sunday, Oct. 25, at 12 p.m. (noon).

Please Note: Meals for students will continue to be available for pick-up at the following location and time: Woodstock Middle School from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

COVID-19 is spread mainly via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge everyone to discuss the following preventive measures with your children and family members:

- Wash your hands frequently, but especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also wash your fingertips. When soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don’t have a tissue, cough/sneeze inside the elbow of your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Wear a face covering (mask) whenever there is a likelihood that you or your family members will be in the presence of others.
- Maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet) between yourself and others when outside of your home.

Below is the list of COVID-19 symptoms for which everyone should monitor in their family members:

- ☐ Fever (100.4° Fahrenheit or higher)
- ☐ Chills or shaking chills
- ☐ Uncontrolled new cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- ☐ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- ☐ New loss of taste or smell

For additional information on COVID-19 symptoms, please see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Staff and students exhibiting any of the above symptoms, or feeling ill, should remain home and call their medical provider to report their symptoms and ask about testing prior to seeking in-person care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital.

For more information on what to do if you or a family member has possible symptoms, a diagnosis, or exposure to COVID-19, please see *Addendum 5: Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts*, available here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/COVID-19-Resources-for-Families-and-Educators/Addendums-and-FAQs>

We are closely monitoring this situation and will continue to work with NDDH. We will provide you with updates as we know more. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

V. Toth

Viktor Toth
Superintendent of Schools