

The Maynard Public Schools are committed to high academic standards that encourage students, teachers, and community members to achieve their personal best through lifelong learning.

MAYNARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

3-R Tiger Drive

Maynard, Massachusetts 01754

Brian Haas

Superintendent of Schools

978-897-2222

<https://www.maynard.k12.ma.us/>



October 27, 2020

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you that a person in our school community has tested positive for COVID-19. Our first responsibility is to keep our students and staff safe. We have been planning for this scenario during our reopening planning process and have a comprehensive plan in place to sanitize the school, inform families whose students were at risk of exposure or in close contact, and support the affected family as they navigate this stressful experience.

Our student body and staff have been closely adhering to the safety protocols including mask wearing, hand washing, and physical distancing. We are grateful to our families for their continued efforts to keep students home at the first sign of symptoms. These measures, taken in combination, greatly reduce the risk of additional transmission.

Though we cannot provide specific information about our school community member who tested positive, unless you receive a private communication from the school your child was not a close contact (defined as being within 6 feet of the person for at least 15 minutes) of the affected school member. Please continue to monitor your child for symptoms, and keep your child home if he/she/they shows any symptoms or is not feeling well.

Parents of students who were in close contact with the community member will be notified privately. All close contacts should be tested but must self-quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, regardless of test result. We are following all Department of Health protocols, including collaborating with our local board of health to complete contact tracing. Additionally, we are asking those parents whose students are tested for COVID-19 to please report the results to the school nurse. We are working hard to understand the impact of the virus on our school community and this information is a critical piece of that puzzle.

To further prevent transmission of the virus to other staff and students, we sanitize the school on daily basis in addition to a more thorough cleaning on Wednesdays and Fridays. We will continue to be vigilant in adhering to all of the protocols that have been put in place in an effort to continue in person learning. We are also providing remote learning for all students required to quarantine at home to continue to provide instruction, structure, and an emotional connection to the classroom during a time that we know will be challenging for those children and families involved. We have been sharing remote learning options with students in advance of our first positive case in hopes that they will understand that this process is designed to keep everyone in our community safe, as opposed to assuming that they have contracted the virus.

For more information on COVID-19 symptoms and testing, visit: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?->.

You can also find a map of testing sites at <https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095feb13>. Please contact us immediately should you or someone in your home begin to show symptoms.

We are committed to continuous communication with and support of our families. If there is additional transmission as a result of this case or a separate case, we will send out another message immediately. Thank you for your continued support.

Be well and stay strong,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Haas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Haas" clearly legible.

Brian Haas
Superintendent
Maynard Public Schools