



WINCHENDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

“Working Together”

Joan Landers

Superintendent of Schools

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November 6, 2020

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you that a Memorial faculty member was symptomatic for COVID-19 while in the school building on Thursday, November 5, 2020. We learned of this matter late last night. Erring on the side of caution, we contacted individuals considered close contacts by CDC guidelines as well as all families of the students in the faculty member’s classroom.

Our first responsibility is to keep our students and staff safe. We continue to remind our student body and staff to adhere to the safety protocols including, mask-wearing, hand washing, and physical social distancing. These measures, taken in combination, greatly reduce the risk of additional transmission. As a reminder, our general notification guidance is as follows:

- We will notify close contacts of anyone who is symptomatic or tests positive.
- If someone is asymptomatic but tests positive, close contacts will be notified as a result of the positive test.
- If someone is asymptomatic OR tests negative, no notifications are required.

To further prevent transmission of the virus to other staff and students, we have sanitized the school with a focus on those areas frequented by the faculty member who was symptomatic. We will continue to be vigilant in adhering to all of the protocols that have been put in place. 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.

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 or test positive for Covid-19.

We are committed to continuous communication with and support of our families and staff. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Thad King at (tking@winchendonk12.org or 978-616-1490). 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.

To protect the privacy rights of all involved, no information about school staff members will be released to the district or community.

We ask everyone who has become aware of the identities of any school staff member involved to respect their rights as well by refraining from identifying them to others, in any form of communication. This includes email and social media.

Sincerely,

Joan Landers
Superintendent

Thad King
Covid- Lead