

The Brooklyn Public Schools

119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234
Phone: (860) 774-9732
Fax: (860) 774-6938

Patricia L. Buell
Superintendent
buell@brooklynschools.org

A NEW CASE OF COVID-19
Connecticut COVID-19 Response
Northeast District Department of Health
Free Priority Testing Sites

November 13, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

Good evening. This letter is to inform you that we have had a second confirmed case of COVID-19 in the Brooklyn Public Schools. The case was a student in Brooklyn Middle School. We are in the process of communicating with the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH) to begin the contact tracing. I am making you aware of this tonight so that you can take the extra precaution this weekend to reduce the spread as we inform those who may be a contact. In this instance, we will be asking all those who had direct contact to quarantine and consult with your physician to see if you should get tested.

Everyone who is considered a contact of this person has been notified directly and/or will be contacted directly by our school nurse or the Department of Health. Close contacts are provided instructions on the appropriate steps to take care of themselves and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Brooklyn Public Schools have policies in place to ensure that cases and contacts do not return to school until they have met the CT State Department of Health guidelines. In accordance with HIPPA guidelines, we are unable to share specific information about the members of our school community who have been affected.

At this time Brooklyn Schools will continue to remain open and will continue to follow the current mitigation strategies. Students who are being asked to quarantine due to contact are asked to log into their Google classrooms during their quarantine to engage in lessons that will be made available through recordings and access to the teacher if they feel well enough to do so.

We have worked closely with the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH) to identify all contacts so that they can be provided all necessary information about the length of time they need to remain home for isolation or quarantine. According to the NDDH, contact tracing extends back two (2) days from the onset. We will confirm with families who need to be quarantined when students may return. We ask that if your child becomes ill or if you have your child tested, please communicate with the school nurse so we are able to contact trace so that we can slow down the transmission of the virus.

Please be aware of the symptoms below and seek medical care if you or your child should feel ill.

- Fever (100.4°F or higher) or chills
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Sore throat or Congestion/runny nose
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- 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

Mission: The Brooklyn Schools will foster a drive for learning within each student to reach his/her greatest potential. To achieve this mission, the school will continually improve its educational programs and services to meet this community's expectations for a quality education for all.

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For additional information on COVID-19 symptoms, please visit the [Centers for Disease Prevention and Control](#) website or contact your medical provider directly. Please know that there are a number of local COVID-19 testing sites for your convenience. [Free priority testing sites link](#) shows that the closest site is [Generations Family Health Center](#). Our school nurses have been sharing this resource with families who have asked and can answer questions if you have any.

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.

Travel advisory: please be aware of the advisory. This is to reduce the spread of the virus! I hope that you continue to be careful and be well!

As always, thank you for your hard work and commitment to achievement in Brooklyn! Thank you for doing your part to support learning in school and at home while remaining safe!

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Buell

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Superintendent

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