

The Brooklyn Public Schools

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Connecticut COVID-19 Response Northeast District Department of Health Free Priority Testing Sites

November 11, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

Thank you for your continued efforts and support to reduce the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). In an effort to continue to remain transparent we wanted to inform you that Brooklyn Public Schools received timely confirmation today that a member of our Brooklyn community has tested positive for COVID-19. **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.

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 of illness or testing date which was on Monday, November 9th. This means that the infectious period would have been over the weekend when school was closed. Our model of cohorting is another means of reducing exposure. **Therefore, at this time Brooklyn Schools will continue to remain open.**

The affected individual did not contract the virus while in the Brooklyn Public Schools. The individual has been instructed to remain home in self-isolation for a minimum of ten (10) days and until symptoms have been resolved. Family members and those who have been in contact with the infected individual have also been instructed to self-quarantine and get tested. The infected individual, family members and all contacts have been provided with additional, specific instructions to follow prior to returning to school.

There continues to be an uptick in cases in our area. Connecticut continues to monitor all cases regularly, in Brooklyn we are doing the same. Please continue to be diligent about having your children wear masks and wash their hands so that we can stay healthy and in school. Our staff is also working hard to try to keep healthy and be in school. If we do not have enough healthy staff to teach students, we may have to close down some of our classes. There are some strategies that are being implemented that are focused on keeping the economy open and keeping our students in school!

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Former correspondence included information about [Guidance for COVID-19](#). It is posted to the website and may assist you when you have questions. There are few items you should keep in mind:

1. Our nurses may ask that you quarantine your child to reduce the spread of COVID.
2. We will notify you if we believe that there is any need to quarantine.
3. Students are able to access their school work through the Google Classroom. If you are unsure of what work you can access, please email your child's teacher.
4. During quarantine, you should monitor your child and other family members. Children should not be with other children who do not live in your home and should not leave the home. Monitor for symptoms and COVID testing is encouraged.
5. If a whole class is required to shut down, the teacher or another teacher will likely be checking in as long as we have staff who can do this.

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

- 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

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!

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Buell
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Superintendent

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