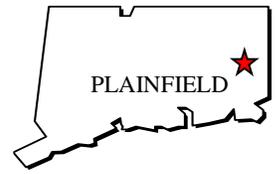




Christi Haskell, BOE Chair

PLAINFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Kenneth R. DiPietro, Superintendent

Middle School Community,

Our school day began in a busy fashion this morning. I am thankful to those parents for sharing the information with us. For the past 30 years in education, I have always believed that student safety is the priority. Further, being transparent with the school community means providing accurate information. Here are some key facts from today:

- We received four separate communications from parents this morning about positive Covid-19 cases after students arrived;
- We were informed of a potential spread within teams stemming from outside the school in our grade eight;
- The decision was made to minimize the risk of greater spread by dismissing grade eight students and staff, after consulting with the NDDH (Northeast Division of the Department of Health);
- The students and staff in grade eight were personally informed, class by class, by the building administration;
- Parents were contacted to pick up students shortly after we became aware, starting at 9:30. All students in our grade eight were picked up by 11:15. Parents were met by school personnel/lunch was distributed;
- Transportation was provided in two cases;
- All grade eight students and staff were placed on quarantine and will work in a hybrid at-home model all of next week. Grade eight students may return to the building on March 15th.
- A sibling in grade 6 tested positive; that cohort was placed on quarantine;
- No students in question were in the building today.

Follow Up/Next steps....

- Families with students in each cohort (primary contacts) were contacted directly by our school nurse;
- All families are encouraged to keep a watchful eye out for symptoms and/or have their child tested;
- All families are asked to communicate with the school, should their child experience symptoms and/or be tested. Should this occur this weekend, please communicate with us via email (email will be monitored this weekend);
- All families should expect a few correspondences (check-ins) during the next few days so we may closely monitor this situation;
- With a remote day tomorrow for our district's vaccination clinic, our custodians plan a "deeper than usual" clean in our entire building.

Our district health letter includes the following:

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 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 symptoms, a diagnosis, or exposure to COVID-19, please see:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/Addendum-5-Interim-Guidance-for-Responding-to-COVID-19-Scenarios-in-CT-School-Districts.pdf>

We are closely monitoring this situation and working with NDDH - the Northeast Division of the Department of Health to provide you with updates as we know more. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Di Pietro, Superintendent