

GLEN ROCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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November 8th, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that a staff member at the Hamilton Elementary School tested positive for Coronavirus (COVID-19). The staff member informed the district today of the positive test and was last in the building on Monday, November 2nd, 2020. Immediately after being notified of this case, in compliance with guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), the district conferred with the school doctor, the Borough Office of Emergency Management, the Glen Rock Board of Health and other school and local officials. Subsequently, cleaning and disinfecting of all exposed areas were identified and will be completed prior to students and staff returning to school on Monday, November 9th, 2020.

Individuals who came into close contact (meaning closer than 6 feet for a cumulative of 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period) with the staff member have been identified and District Contact Tracers have already communicated with any affected individuals to provide quarantine instructions. If you did not receive a call from one of our District Contact Tracers, your child was not in close contact.

In full accordance with the New Jersey Department of Health guidelines, only affected Hamilton Elementary students and staff will operate **virtually** through Thursday, November 19th, 2020 and return to in-person instruction on Friday, November 20th, 2020. All remaining Hamilton Elementary students and classes, and all Central, Coleman, middle school and high school classes will remain on their regular schedule. Byrd students and staff will continue with in-person instruction with the exception of those students and staff that were notified otherwise based on yesterday's communication.

As per the [New Jersey Department of Health guidelines](#), schools are only required to close when there is an outbreak. An outbreak in school settings is defined as *... "two or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically linked, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting during standard case investigation or contact tracing."*

We understand the level of concern regarding COVID-19. We encourage parents and students to continue following the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention promoted safeguards, such as:

- Staying home when you are sick;
- Washing hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
- Wearing a face covering while in school; and
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms.

As always, we appreciate our community's support and cooperation. You can assist us by remaining vigilant in your approach to dealing with this health concern. If you have any questions about COVID-19 symptoms, or any other concerns for you or your child, please consult your physician. Should you have any questions about this situation, please feel free to contact your child's school nurse and/or principal. Below are some resources that might be helpful.

RESOURCES

1. NJDOH COVID-19 Information for Communities and the General Public:
https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml
2. Get the Facts about Coronavirus:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
3. Symptoms of COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
4. Testing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/index.html>;
<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing>
5. How to Protect Yourself:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>
6. What to Do if You Are Sick:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

Sincerely,



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