

March 1, 2021

Dear East Community,

Today we learned of a student who tested positive for COVID-19. This student was last in school on Tuesday, February 23rd and is part of cohort A. We reported the incident to the Chester County Health Department and began the process of contact tracing to determine who may have come in close contact with this student. Currently, all parents of students whom we believe may have come in close contact (as defined by the health department as 6 feet or less for 15 minutes) have been notified.

While we are making every attempt to keep students and staff members *out of close contact and socially distanced*, there are certainly times when close contact does occur. We are erring on the side of caution and if there is any question about “close contact”, we are presuming it has taken place.

Contact tracing helps manage the spread of COVID-19 and prevent future surges of cases. If the Health Department finds any other people at East who may have been a close contact, they will contact them and provide information including:

- Last date of exposure, which decides the timeline for quarantine
- Expectations for quarantine
- How to report new or worsening symptoms

If you are not contacted by the Health Department or school personnel because of this exposure, it is unlikely that your child came in contact with anyone who was presumed positive. However, you should still watch for symptoms consistent with COVID-19, including fever, cough, shortness of breath, abnormal sense of taste and smell, sore throat, muscle pain, headache, congestion, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. If any of these symptoms develop, please stay home and contact your physician as well as the school.

We follow public health guidance to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in our school and community. We are committed to protecting the health and safety of our students, staff, and families. For more information, please visit the Chester County Health Department website at <https://www.chesco.org/4376/Coronavirus-COVID-19> or visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/covid19>.

As parents and educators, the safety of our students and staff is of utmost importance, and we understand the anxiety that a note like this may cause.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact Principal, Stephen Brown, or any of the people on this pandemic contact list, including Superintendent Jim Scanlon: <https://www.wcasd.net/Page/13071>

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim Scanlon, Superintendent
Dr. Stephen Brown, Principal