



September 28, 2020

Dear Highcrest Middle School Families and Staff:

This letter is to inform you that a staff member at HMS has tested positive for COVID-19. The diagnosed individual was last in school on Friday, September 25, and has been in quarantine at home since that time. Based on contact tracing, the individual transmission does not appear to have occurred at school. Highcrest families and staff who are considered close contacts to this individual have been notified of the need to quarantine through **Friday, October 9**. The building and classroom spaces are disinfected nightly and our deep cleaning protocol is being implemented over the weekend. The Cook County Department of Public Health will conduct additional contact tracing.

We understand your interest about the identity of the affected staff member so that individuals can assess their possibility of exposure. However, federal privacy laws prevent administration, or the school district, from sharing the name of the staff member or providing any information that would otherwise lead to the identification of this person.

The health and safety of our Wilmette Public School students and staff is our highest priority, and we recognize the uncertainty and concern regarding the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We are following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the state and local health departments for best practices and procedures to protect everyone's health.

We will continue to enforce safe practices to prevent, promptly identify, and respond to potential COVID cases. **As always, everyone should monitor their health and stay at home if they develop symptoms[1]. Sick persons should contact their health care provider to determine if testing is needed. Anyone who develops severe symptoms[2] should seek medical care immediately.** Refer to this guidance from the [IL Department of Public Health related to best practice](#) for positive cases in school.

Thank you for your understanding and ongoing cooperation with our COVID prevention policies and procedures as we work to help protect your children, your families, and our staff and their families.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kari Cremascoli, Superintendent

Kelly Jackson, Principal