

October 18, 2020

Dear Wilmette Junior High School Families and Staff:

This letter is to inform you that a staff member at Wilmette Junior High School has tested positive for COVID-19. The diagnosed individual was **last in school on Friday, October 9**, and has not been in school since that time. **Based on contact tracing information, the individual does not appear to have contracted COVID while at school. No Wilmette Junior High School families or staff are considered close contacts to this individual.** Based on the individual's last date of attendance and symptomatology, the Cook County Department of Public Health has assured us that this individual was not infectious when last at school; however, we are informing you of this event nonetheless and encourage you to continue to monitor your own health. **This individual was quarantined at home due to a possible exposure experienced by a household member. By following the guidelines, this staff member mitigated the risk of exposure and transmission to others.**

We understand your interest about the identities of the affected individuals to assess the 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. These practices include mandatory mask wearing, physical distancing within classrooms and the school, bubbled classroom assignments, symptom monitoring, frequent hand washing, regular sanitizing of high-touch areas and nightly disinfection cleaning as well as COVID-19 response protocol including contact tracing, quarantining and deep cleaning. 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 to everyone throughout our community for your continued care and diligence in adhering to quarantine guidance. We appreciate 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

Kate Dominique, Principal

[1] 1 Symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

[2] 2 Severe symptoms of COVID-19 include: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face.