



# THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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November 16, 2020

Dear Thompson Families,

The district was notified today, Monday November 16, 2020 two students tested positive for COVID-19 at Tourtellotte Memorial High School and is classified as a Case. The individuals are not connected to the case we reported last week.

Currently all students at Tourtellotte Memorial are remote learning. All students are scheduled to return to onsite classes on Monday November 30, 2020.

One of the high school cases may have impacted students attending Thompson Middle School. Therefore, out of an abundance of caution, I have made the difficult decision to switch to remote learning for all middle school students beginning tomorrow Tuesday November 17, 2020 until Monday November 30, 2020 to accommodate the quarantine and isolation requirements.

The cases identified are currently not impacting students that attend Mary R Fisher Elementary School. I will inform you if something changes.

As you are aware, it is the policy of Thompson Public Schools, (TPS) to notify parents and the school community when an individual associated with TPS has been identified as having tested positive for COVID-19 AND having been in close contact with one or more individuals in a school setting. Settings include classrooms and other interior school locations, bus stops, buses or other forms of transportation, school grounds, or school-related events held at other locations.

Individuals who have laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 are referred to as “Cases.”

“Contacts” are individuals who spent at least 15 minutes within six feet of a confirmed Case or had a direct exposure such as being sneezed or coughed on in the face.

Shannon Grauer, TPS Lead Nurse and NDDH have initiated case investigation and contact tracing activities to identify all individuals who may have been in close contact with this new Case. TPS and NDDH will continue to work cooperatively to ensure that all Contacts have information on how to protect themselves and others. Information related to case investigations is confidential and private health information will not be disclosed by TPS or NDDH.

Please be sure that your child’s school has your correct phone number on file. To assist in contact tracing efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19, please answer any calls or texts from the following numbers:

- “Northeast District Department of Health” or “Town of Brooklyn” – (860) 774-7350
  - CT COVID TRACE – 855-670-0299
  - Email messages from [SVC-Covid19@ct.gov](mailto:SVC-Covid19@ct.gov)
  - Shannon Grauer, TPS Lead nurse phone number 860-617-3873
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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 do not 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>

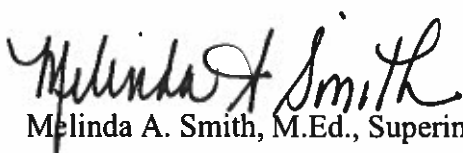
Staff and students exhibiting any of the above symptoms, or feeling ill, should call their medical provider to report their symptoms and ask about testing prior to seeking in-person care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital.

For more information on what to do if you or a family member has possible 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 the Northeast District Department of Health and will provide you with updates as we know more. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Melinda A. Smith, M.Ed., Superintendent