



THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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January 28, 2021

Good Morning Thompson Families,

Mary R. Fisher Elementary School students will return to school on Tuesday, February 2, 2021. This date is one day later than previously communicated due to the quarantine timeline that allows our COVID-19 impacted faculty and staff to return to work.

The sixth grade cohort at Thompson Middle School will also end their quarantine on February 1, 2021 and will return to onsite learning on Tuesday, February 2, 2021 as well.

The district is conducting ongoing searches for substitute teachers. The pool of folks willing to enter classrooms during this health emergency is limited. Also, all districts are trying to recruit substitutes in every school system across the state. If we have a teacher shortage to cover classes, we have no other option than to switch to remote learning. As a reminder, please be sure to arrange back-up child care if we are forced to switch back to remote.

I want students and their families to know that we are doing our best to keep schools open for onsite learners. You can assist us with this mission by adhering to the mitigation strategies listed below and keeping our Director of Nurses, Shannon Grauer, updated with any COVID-19 related questions or news that can impact our students. Ms. Grauer can be reached by cell phone at 860-617-3873 or by email at sgrauer@thompsonpublicschools.org.

Help us maintain a healthy school environment by adhering to CDC/DPH recommendations:

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 also to cleanse 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 don't 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 remain home and call their medical provider to report their symptoms and ask about testing before 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/SDC/COVID-19/Addendum-5-Interim-Guidance-for-Responding-to-COVID-19-Scenarios-in-CT-School-Districts.pdf>

Sincerely,



Melinda A. Smith, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools