

October 27, 2020

Dear Staff, Parents, and Guardians,

This letter is to inform you that three individuals in the District have tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The District is coordinating closely with public health officials and following CDC, state, and local health department guidance in order to assure the health and safety of our community.

One of the individuals who tested positive is a member of the Montgomery High School community. The second individual who tested positive is a member of the Montgomery Lower Middle School community. The third individual who tested positive is a member of the Orchard Hill Elementary School community. A contact tracing investigation has been initiated for all three cases and are ongoing.

Due to the number of high school staff members required to remain at home until contact tracing is completed, Montgomery High School will be utilizing the All Virtual schedule beginning tomorrow, Wednesday, October 28th through Wednesday, November 4th. Students will return to the hybrid schedule on Monday, November 9th. All extra-curricular activities (sports, band, robotics) that have been meeting in person will continue to run accordingly. Please contact your coach or advisor if you have any questions regarding the schedule.

The other four district schools will remain on the hybrid schedule for this week. As a reminder, all district schools are on the All Virtual schedule next week, November 2-4, 2020. All schools are closed Thursday and Friday, November 5 and 6, 2020 for the NJ Teachers Convention.

In addition, the district is currently creating a dashboard on COVID-19 cases, by building, located in the Parents/Community tab of the district website. Once launched, the dashboard will be updated daily for your information. I will send the link to the dashboard when it is activated.

Cleaning and disinfecting, of all exposed areas, have been completed. The schools are also taking precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of viruses and other germs and are cleaning frequently touched surfaces daily. The status of this situation is fluid, and we are monitoring it closely.

We understand the level of concern regarding COVID-19. We encourage parents and students to continue following the <u>Centers for Disease Control & Prevention</u> promoted safeguards, such as:

- Staying home when you are sick;
- Washing hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
- Wearing a face covering while in school; and
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms.



As always, we appreciate our community's support and cooperation. You can assist us by remaining vigilant but sensible in your approach to dealing with this health concern. Should you have any questions about this situation, please feel free to contact the building principal or school nurse. Below are some resources that might be helpful.

## RESOURCES

- a. NJDOH COVID-19 Information for Communities and the General Public: <u>https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019\_community.shtml</u>
- b. Get the Facts about Coronavirus: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html</u>
- c. Symptoms of COVID-19: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptomstesting/symptoms.html</u>
- d. Testing: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-</u> ncov/testing/index.html; <u>https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing</u>
- e. How to Protect Yourself: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-gettingsick/prevention.html</u>
- f. What to Do if You Are Sick: <u>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/stepswhen-sick.html</u>

Sincerely,

Mary E. McLoughlin Superintendent of Schools