



PORT WASHINGTON-SAUKVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

We educate all children to reach their greatest potential.

SUPERINTENDENT

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September 10, 2021

Port Washington-Saukville School District Families,

We hope you all are having a great start to the new school year! Please take a minute to read through this letter outlining the District's process for contact tracing and some other details pertaining to our COVID-19 protocols.

The contact tracing process begins when we are notified that a student or staff member has tested positive. This notification comes from parents, the individuals themselves, and/or the health department. The positive test result is verified by the school nurse on the state's COVID-19 test result database or by receiving lab documentation of the test. The school nurse then calls the individual's parent or guardian and reviews details such as required isolation time, date of symptom onset, extra-curricular activities, rides, etc. An individual is considered contagious 48 hours prior to showing symptoms and this is the timeframe which we contact trace for (48 hours prior to symptom onset through when the person began isolation). We then complete teacher interviews to determine if there were any individuals within six feet of the positive person for greater than 15 minutes on the specified days that person would have been contagious. Those are the individuals who are determined to be close contacts. At that time, the close contact notification call and email are sent out with the quarantine timeline and whether it is recommended or required.

Unfortunately, this process takes time. Individuals are typically not tested until after they begin to show symptoms and the tests can take anywhere from 20 minutes – 4 days to be resulted. As soon as we receive notification of positive results we begin contact tracing. If we get multiple positive results in one day, we process them in the order they are received. Due to the nature of the COVID virus being contagious 48 hours prior to symptom onset, and the testing timeline, it is very likely that you will not find out if your child has been in close contact with a positive individual for multiple days after the contact. Fortunately, the typical onset of symptoms is anywhere between 5 – 7 days post contracting the virus. So, if individuals begin to quarantine when they are notified of close contact (even if it is days after contact), they are most likely already at home should they become contagious.

The other area we want to clarify is isolation. Isolation is the term used for the time an individual who is showing symptoms of COVID or has received a positive COVID test result should remain isolated away from non-infected individuals. As of the writing of this letter, the required time of isolation for symptomatic and/or COVID positive individuals is through 10 days from symptom onset or through 10 days from testing date (for positive, asymptomatic individuals). If an individual is sick with any one symptom from Part 1 of the COVID-19 Student Illness Tool (see link below) or any two symptoms from Part 2, this individual needs to stay home and either isolate for 10 days from symptom onset or receive a negative COVID test.

[COVID-19 Student Illness Tool](#)

Our hope is that this helps to clear up confusion and to lend understanding to our current practices. As this is an ever-changing, evolving situation, so are the recommendations from the leading public health

experts. We try to stay as current as possible with these recommendations and our COVID response team is in constant communication.

Thank you all for taking the time to read through this letter and stay well!

Sincerely,

Port Washington-Sauville School District
COVID Response Team