

October 14, 2020

Dear Parents/ Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that an individual at GMS has 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 staff and students.

Contact tracing has been completed. In the event that your child has been identified as a close contact, the school nurse and Department of Health will contact you with further information.

In exercising an abundance of caution, GMS will be closed for fourteen days. Your child may return to school on October 29, 2020, provided that he/she is not presenting any symptoms of Covid 19. When returning to the school, it is very important to inform the nurse immediately of any symptoms your child may experience that can be Covid related. The nurse will then advise you of any steps that must be taken to ensure the safety and health of students and staff.

Remote learning will continue during this time period. Please make sure that your child has access to the computer and is participating in daily lessons.

Cleaning and disinfecting of all exposed areas will be completed. The school will continue to take precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of viruses and other germs and is cleaning frequently touched surfaces daily. As you are aware, the custodians are required to leave notes on classroom doors verifying the cleanliness and sanitization of the classrooms.

We understand the level of concern regarding COVID-19. We encourage you to continue following the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention 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 school 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

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have any questions about this situation, please feel free to contact the District Nursing Supervisor, Tana Raymond, at 973-340-5000, ext. 2318.

Below are some resources that might be helpful.

RESOURCES

- a. NJDOH COVID-19 Information for Communities and the General Public: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml
- b. Get the Facts about Coronavirus: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- c. Symptoms of COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptomstesting/symptoms.html>
- d. Testing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/index.html>; <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing>
- e. How to Protect Yourself: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-gettingsick/prevention.html>
- f. What to Do if You Are Sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/stepswhen-sick.html>

Sincerely,

Anna Sciacca

Anna Sciacca
Superintendent of Garfield Public Schools