

October 21, 2020

Dear CPS Families and Staff,

On Monday, I communicated that the district had its first positive COVID-19 case at Joel Elementary School. In collaboration with the CT River Area Health Department, contact tracing was completed on Monday evening, and all students and staff who were identified, in the process, as having been a close contact of the positive case were asked to quarantine for 14 days as outlined in the guidelines from the Department of Public Health.

Today, I was made aware that information was publicly shared that there was an additional positive case in the district at The Morgan School. This is NOT accurate information and there is no known additional positive case in our district.

In order for our families and staff to better understand the process we use, it is important to know that we receive information regarding illness, pending tests, and positive cases from parents, medical providers, and the health department. When we receive this information we use an internal system to track and monitor all potential COVID-19 cases and review information with our School Nurse Supervisor, our School Medical Advisor, and the local health department to ensure that we are following all protocols and taking action to ensure a safe school environment.

The implementation of all of our mitigation strategies and monitoring and coordinating with public health is a daily commitment, in order to provide for a strong, healthy, and supportive learning experience for our students. This is a new experience for all of us and we realize that there are often questions and the desire to have access to the information and guidance we are provided.

The following table provides contact information that may be helpful to you, as well as links to important decision-making documents and the public health metrics weekly data.

Information Topic	Contact/Link
School Nurse Supervisor & CPS COVID-19 Liaison	Mrs. Donna Frechette dfrechette@clintonpublic.net
Local Public Health Department	CT River Area Health District (CRAHD) http://www.crahd.org
Department of Public Health Guidance	Addendum 5- Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios Addendum 9- Contact Tracing in Schools
Weekly County and Local Public Health Metrics	Public Health Metrics Website

As the number of positive cases in our state, county, and town continue to increase, it will be difficult to predict what impacts this trending will have on our current in-person learning model. Our staff and administration are prepared to take action to transition a school to remote learning for whatever period of time is necessary and advised by our health district professionals if the public health metrics and circumstances require us to do so.

Although we have had one positive case, we have not had transmission within our schools and we believe that if we all continue to work together to ensure that we implement the mitigation strategies that we know are working and stay home when we don't feel well, we can resist the trending and continue in-person learning. Be assured, we will communicate to our school community any confirmed positive case and the actions being taken to ensure that our schools can safely remain open for learning.

Thank you for your support, trust, and partnership in this collective effort to maintain our current learning model and to navigate very uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Maryann O'Donnell
Superintendent