

November 7, 2020

Dear Parents and Staff:

The District was notified today of a positive COVID-19 case in the Eliot Middle School community. The affected individual has been instructed to continue to remain home and isolate for 14 days. Contact tracing was conducted with the assistance of the CT River Area Health District (CRAHD) and all individuals who were determined to be in close contact with the positive case have received a phone call and been informed about required actions.

We have seen increasing transmission rates in Clinton and have seen numerous cases within our district in the past week. As we have been monitoring our trends and working with the CT River Area Health District (CRAHD), we have jointly reviewed our decision-making and the guidance that has been provided to school districts regarding contact tracing scenarios in schools ([Addendum 9](#)) and consideration of learning models for schools ([Addendum 4](#)). As we have continued to respond to individual cases, we have also looked carefully at our learning models, and in conjunction with CRAHD personnel have made the decision to adjust our learning models for the Clinton Public Schools. Therefore, the Clinton Public Schools will operate under the following models through the Thanksgiving Holiday:

	Learning Model Week of November 9th	Learning Model Week of November 16th	Learning Model Week of November 23rd
Joel Elementary School	Hybrid	Hybrid	Hybrid
Eliot Middle School (including grades 5&6)	Full Remote	Hybrid	Hybrid
The Morgan School	Full Remote	Hybrid	Hybrid

We appreciate that the change in learning models has an impact on our students, staff, and families and requires flexibility to transition to remote learning and the hybrid model. Each school principal will be sending information to parents and students with important information about the schedule for next week and beyond. Students who receive special education services will be contacted by their case managers regarding schedules for services.

Reducing density in our school buildings and classrooms is an additional mitigation measure that the Hybrid Learning Model provides and is warranted based on the public health data. We will monitor the public health metrics and continue to consult with CRAHD on a weekly basis, in order to determine the most appropriate learning model, and we will provide updates to the school community as appropriate.

We ask that our community implements and adheres to the mitigation measures of mask wearing, social distancing, and hand hygiene that have been shown to reduce and control the spread of COVID-19. Staff, students, and family members exhibiting any of the symptoms listed in this message

below, or feeling ill, should call their medical provider to report their symptoms. In addition, ill students and staff should not be coming to school.

The District will continue to immediately respond to notifications of positive COVID-19 cases of students or staff in the district, to work closely with the CT River Area Health District, and to communicate with our families and staff all required information and notifications.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or our School Nurse Supervisor Donna Frechette at dfrechette@clintonpublic.net.

Sincerely,
Maryann R. O'Donnell
Superintendent

REMINDERS FROM THE CT RIVER AREA HEALTH DISTRICT

Watch for symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Know how it spreads

- There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus.
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.
 - Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
 - Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
 - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
 - Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Everyone Should

Wash your hands often

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid close contact

Inside your home: Avoid close contact with people who are sick. If possible, maintain 6 feet between the person who is sick and other household members.

Outside your home: Put 6 feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household.

- Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
- Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.
- Keeping distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.

Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others

- You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.
- The mask is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- Everyone should wear a mask in public settings and around people who don't live in your household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The mask is not a substitute for social distancing.

Cover coughs and sneezes

- Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit.
- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean and disinfect

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.