



Hebron Public Schools



High Expectations, Bright Futures

Administration Office

580 Gilead Street, Hebron, CT 06248 ▪ Tel: (860) 228-2577 ▪ Fax: (860) 228-2235 ▪ www.hebron.k12.ct.us

Thomas J. Baird, EdD
Superintendent of Schools

Kaitlyn O'Leary
Business Manager

Donald E. Briere, PhD
Director of Educational Services

January 15, 2021

Dear Hebron Families and Educators,

I am writing to inform you that we learned today that three students tested positive for COVID-19. Two students are Gilead Hill School students who were last in school on January 8th and January 14th. One student is a Hebron Elementary School student who was last in school on January 14th. Rapid testing allowed for quick notification of these cases. The students will complete their ten day isolation periods prior to returning to school. In collaboration with Chatham Health, we determined there was potential exposure to other students and staff at both schools as a result of these cases. Potential exposure would be close contact (within six feet regardless of a mask) with the individual during the period of potential infection. **At this time, we have contacted all those who were in close contact with these cases.** Those in close contact will quarantine.

Families should not send children to school if they are sick or if your family has had contact with someone who is either presumed or confirmed positive for COVID-19. If you are awaiting COVID test results due to contact with others or for travel, you must wait until these test results are in before sending your children to school. When in doubt, keep children at home and contact the school health office. Continue using the GHSnurse@hebron.k12.ct.us and HESnurse@hebron.k12.ct.us email addresses to communicate directly with our nurses. You can also use our after-hours email address COVID@hebron.k12.ct.us to reach our team.

COVID-19 is spread mainly via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets from coughing and sneezing by an infected person. As with controlling the spread of other viruses, we urge everyone to discuss the following preventative measures with your children and family members:

- Wash your hands frequently, but especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food. Using soap and hot water, wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure to also wash your fingertips. When soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away. If you don't have a tissue, cough/sneeze inside the elbow of your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Wear a face covering (mask) whenever there is a likelihood that you or your family members will be in the presence of others.
- Maintain social distancing (at least 6 feet whenever feasible) between yourself and others when outside of your home.

Below is the list of COVID-19 symptoms for which everyone should monitor in their family members:

- Fever (100.4° Fahrenheit or higher)
- Chills or shaking chills
- Uncontrolled new cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- New loss of taste or smell

Please use the [CDC's Symptoms of Coronavirus](#) for additional information on COVID-19 symptoms. Staff and students exhibiting any of the above symptoms, or feeling ill, should call their medical provider to report their symptoms and ask about testing prior to seeking in-person care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital. The updated [CT Department of Education's Reopening Addendum 5, Guidance for Responding to COVID-19](#) continues to be our guidance protocol document for exposure to COVID-19. Our [Response to COVID-19 Communication Protocols](#) is another good resource for information regarding our communication steps for a presumed or confirmed positive case. This was also recently updated.

While incidents of COVID-19 within schools can be challenging and cause stress in the community, we are confident in our [COVID Operations and Distance Learning Plan](#), the guidelines within the plan, and our collaboration with Chatham Health to respond to these incidents.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Baird, EdD
Superintendent of Schools