



Hebron Public Schools



High Expectations, Bright Futures

Administration Office

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Dear Hebron Families and Educators,

I am writing to inform you that today we learned that a Gilead Hill School student is presumed positive for COVID-19. The student was last in school on January 28th. The student will complete their ten day isolation period prior to returning to school. I am sure you join me in wishing the student a speedy recovery. In collaboration with Chatham Health, we determined there was risk of infection to students and staff for this case. **At this time, we have contacted all of those who were in close contact with this case.** Recently, the Board of Education commissioned a District COVID Dashboard displaying the number of students and staff either isolating or quarantining. This can be found on the [COVID page](#) of our website.

In collaboration with Chatham Health, we continue to monitor for any signs of in-school COVID transmission carefully in light of concerns of the new variants of COVID that are more easily transmitted. To date, all but one case of COVID in our district can be linked to only out-of-school contact with confirmed positive cases. Recently, we had one case where it could not be determined if the cause was from in-school or out-of-school transmission because both were possibilities. We continue to follow the advice of Chatham Health and the CT Department of Education remaining vigilant in our implementation of mitigation strategies while monitoring any illness very closely. **Please ensure that cloth masks fit snug around the nose and cheeks and avoid gaps. The fabric should be thick enough to not allow light through and there should be no exhalation valves or vents.** We will let you know of any additional measures added or any changes to our operations plan as we receive updated recommendations from Chatham Health and the CT Department of Education.

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-19 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