

May 17, 2021

Dear DPS Families and Staff:

This letter is to inform you that a family at the Eisenhower High School **Graduation** has tested positive for COVID-19. In the interest of privacy, DPS will not confirm further details about any individual who may report a positive COVID-19 test.

We are coordinating our efforts with the Macon County Health Department to promptly identify and monitor individuals who have had recent contact with the COVID-19 positive individual(s) to prevent further spread within our school and community. The health and safety of DPS students and staff is our highest priority, and we recognize the uncertainty and concern regarding the ever-changing COVID-19 pandemic. We are following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the state and local health departments for best practices and procedures to protect everyone's health.

To prevent further spread of the disease, DPS is taking the following steps:

- DPS is working in conjunction with the Macon County Health Department to manage contact tracing and notify close contacts (i.e. persons who were within six feet of a COVID-positive individual for 15 minutes or longer).
- Placing staff members and students who are identified as having prolonged close contact to the COVID-19 case(s) in quarantine for 10-14 days. Close contacts will also receive a separate notification from the Macon County Health Department.
- Continued ongoing self-certification of students and staff for signs and symptoms of illness and evaluation of illness reports to promptly identify possible outbreaks.
- Conduct a thorough cleaning and disinfection of the areas impacted by potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

We will continue to enforce safe practices to prevent, promptly identify, and respond to potential COVID-19 cases, as follows:

- Students and staff who are ill with COVID-like symptoms will promptly be placed in a separate supervised area away from others until they can be sent home.
- Students are required to wear face masks at all times, as previously directed and per school policy. Staff are required to wear face coverings at all times while in contact with children and other staff in the facility.
- We are continuously sanitizing high-touch surfaces including door handles, stair rails, sink faucets, etc.
- We have removed plush toys and other soft items that cannot be properly or frequently disinfected.
- We are teaching students the importance of face coverings, social distancing, and proper handwashing:
 - Students are discouraged from sharing personal items, e.g., water bottles.
 - Students are learning new ways to greet each other without touching as in handshakes, fist bumps, and high fives.
 - Students are reminded to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth, and to cover coughs and sneezes.
 - Students will be taught to wash their hands frequently and properly, following CDC guidelines on handwashing.
- As we receive more information from the Department of Public Health and other entities, we will implement additional recommendations and guidelines.

As always, everyone should monitor their health and stay at home if they develop symptoms¹. Sick persons should contact their health care provider to determine if testing is needed. Anyone who develops severe symptoms² should seek medical care immediately. If you or your student had close contact with a known case of COVID-19, stay home and notify your primary healthcare provider, your child's school, and the Macon County Health Department.

We are committed to providing your student and our staff with a safe and healthy environment. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing cooperation with our COVID prevention policies and procedures as we work to help protect the health and safety of our community. For any questions or concerns, please contact DPS Central Administration at 217-362-3000.

Sincerely,
Decatur Public Schools

¹Symptoms of COVID-19 include: 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.

²Severe symptoms of COVID-19 include: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face.