



October 12, 2020

Dear Haverford families,

Last week we welcomed students in grades K-3 as they returned to in-person learning. Today we are writing to provide you with specific information regarding COVID-19 cases. Between Friday, October 9th, and Sunday, October 11th three presumptive positive or positive cases that have required contact tracing were identified in our district. We worked closely with the Chester County Health Department to identify close contacts and notify specific students or staff who are required to quarantine. Quarantining is a mitigation strategy to help slow the spread of the virus.

As the weeks progress and positive cases present in our schools, staff and students will be notified **if they are deemed to be a close contact**. As a district, we have added a [COVID-19 Data Chart](#) on our website to keep the community informed weekly of these in school COVID-19 positive cases.

If a student or staff member who tests positive was in our building during the contagious period, we will work with the Chester County Health Department to support contact tracing. Contact tracing includes:

- Identifying those individuals who were in our buildings, on our busses, or attended before/aftercare that reside in our buildings and were less than six feet from the COVID-19 positive person for more than 15 minutes.
- Please note: It is important to remind our students to remain socially distant from others even when wearing masks, during recess, and while waiting for the bus.

If your child must quarantine due to a close contact at school, the school nurse will provide you with the [Close Contact Information Sheet](#) outlining the steps to follow. Your child's building principal will notify you of your child's plan for instruction. Unless notified otherwise, the siblings of students who have been advised to quarantine are permitted to attend school. Those siblings were not in direct contact with the COVID-19 positive person.

You will be asked to monitor your child for symptoms of COVID-19. These symptoms include fever, cough, shortness of breath, abnormal sense of taste and smell, sore throat, muscle pain, headache, congestion, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. If you or your child develops any of these symptoms, stay home, and contact your physician.

Please remember to screen your children before leaving for school in the morning using the [at-home health screening requirements located on our website](#). Children who exhibit symptoms should stay at home; doing so will help to keep our classrooms and schools open. If your child develops symptoms while at school you will be contacted to pick your child up and will receive the [Symptomatic Student Information Sheet](#).

We are notified by Haverford staff members and students when they have been advised to quarantine based upon interactions/contacts that occurred outside of school. The District is not



### **The School District of Haverford Township**

involved in the investigation of those cases. If those individuals eventually test positive, the District will become involved in contact tracing; only if they were in the building during the contagious period.

Director of the Chester County Health Department, Jeanne Casner, attended our October 8th board meeting where she answered questions about COVID-19 related reporting and assistance provided to schools. The [question and answer portion of the meeting](#) can be found on our website and YouTube channel.

The School District of Haverford Township is committed to protecting the health and safety of our students, staff, and families.

Sincerely,

Maureen Reusche, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

Nicole Battestelli  
Pandemic Coordinator  
Director of Pupil Services & Special Education

#### **Additional Information from the Chester County Health Department Website**

The Chester County Health Department investigates all suspected or confirmed reports of COVID-19. This helps the Health Department provide guidance to the people involved and to the school. COVID-19 investigations include finding close contacts during the contagious period (contact tracing). Contact tracing helps manage the spread of COVID-19 and prevent future surges of cases. If the Health Department finds your child is a close contact, they will give you information including:

- Your last date of exposure, which decides the timeline for quarantine
- Expectations for quarantine
- How to report new or worsening symptoms
- Information about COVID-19

Investigations are initiated within 24 hours of receipt on weekdays. The time necessary to complete an investigation varies based upon the uniqueness of the case. The Chester County Health Department will not be reaching out to families outside of their [business hours](#).

For more information, please visit the Chester County Health Department website at <https://www.chesco.org/4376/Coronavirus-COVID-19> or visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/covid19>.