



November 12, 2020

Dear Middle School Families and Staff:

I am writing to inform you that a person in our school community has tested positive for COVID-19. Our first responsibility is to keep our students and staff safe. We have been planning for this scenario during our reopening planning process and have a comprehensive plan in place to inform families and staff who were at risk of exposure or in close contact, and support the affected family as they navigate this stressful experience.

Our student body and staff have been closely adhering to the safety protocols including mask wearing, hand washing, and physical distancing. We are grateful to our families for their continued efforts to keep students home at the first sign of symptoms. These measures, taken in combination, greatly reduce the risk of additional transmission.

Once we were informed there was a positive case, we were in contact with the Norwell Board of Health. At this time, we have been informed that all specific close contacts have been informed. Please continue to monitor your child for symptoms, and keep your child home if he/she/they shows any symptoms or is not feeling well.

As a reminder, if a close contact was identified, parents of students who were in close contact with the community member will be notified privately by the Board of Health or the State Community Tracing Collaborative. All close contacts should be tested but must self-quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, regardless of test result. We are also following all Department of Health protocols, including collaborating with our local board of health to complete contact tracing. Additionally, we are asking those parents whose students are tested for COVID-19 to please report the results to the school nurse. We are working hard to understand the impact of the virus on our school community and this information is a critical piece of that puzzle.

For more information on COVID-19 symptoms and testing, visit:

[https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?-](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?)

You can also find a map of testing sites at:

<https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095febf13>. Please contact us immediately should you or someone in your home begin to show symptoms.

We are committed to continuous communication with and support of our families. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact either Principal Derek Sulc at 781-659-8814, or derek.sulc@norwellschools.org, or Board of Health Director Ben Margro at 781-659-8016, or

bmargro@townofnorwell.net. If there is additional transmission as a result of this case or a separate case, we will send out another message immediately. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Keegan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Matthew A. Keegan
Superintendent of Schools

MAK/jea