



October 1, 2020

Dear HPS Community,

I am writing to inform you that a person in our Hingham Middle 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 sanitize the school, inform families whose students 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.

Though we cannot provide specific information about our school community member who tested positive, there have been no identified close contacts in our schools (defined as being within 6 feet of the person for at least 15 minutes), **as the affected school member was not present in our building during their infectious period.** Regardless, we encourage everyone in our community to continue to monitor for symptoms, and to stay home if anyone shows symptoms or is not feeling well.

Any individual who has been in close contact with the community member will be notified privately. All close contacts should be tested and must self-quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, regardless of test result. We are following all Department of Health protocols, including collaborating with our local board of health to complete contact tracing as necessary. Additionally, we are asking parents/guardians 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.

The HPS will continue to be vigilant in adhering to all of the safety and cleaning protocols that have been put in place for in person learning. If needed, we will also provide remote learning for any student required to quarantine at home to provide instruction, structure, and an emotional connection to the classroom during a time that we know will be challenging for those involved.

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=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095feb13>. 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 any of the HPS School Nurses, or the Hingham Board of Health at 781-741-1466.

Paul Austin, Superintendent

Derek Smith, Principal, HMS