

November 30, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of OSHS Students,

Old Saybrook Public Schools was notified that a member of our school community at Old Saybrook High School is presumed to be positive for Coronavirus (COVID19). A presumption that someone is positive means that the individual is showing symptoms and has had close contact with a positive case.

After discussions with CT River Area Health District (CRAHD) it was decided that a group of students and staff who are considered close contacts will be asked to quarantine at home while further test results are being awaited. You would have been called if you are on this list. All other students and staff may return to school tomorrow, December 1, 2020.

If you are a close contact you were notified by phone by a high school administrator or nurse. The group of students and staff who are being isolated to provide time for the schools to work with CRAHD and to allow for additional test results to be received will need to remain at home and self-isolate until further notice.

If we receive new information in the coming days, you may learn that the quarantine period is over or that it will be extended for the full 14 days. In this case, the 14 day period will be over and students and staff may return to school on Tuesday, December 8, 2020. The potential contact would have occurred prior to the holiday break though we learned of it today. Family members of contacts will not need to quarantine unless you/they become symptomatic or test positive. Anyone else in the Old Saybrook High School will be contacts of a contact and not contacts of a positive or presumed positive case.

What will the Schools Do?

- Partner with CRAHD to complete contact tracing (completed on 11/30/20) and keep each other informed about new information either agency receives.
- Notify staff members and students who were identified as having prolonged close contact to the presumed COVID-19 case. (All have been contacted or phone messages were left as of 6:30 p.m. on November 30.) These individuals will be required to be quarantined and will receive a separate notification from the local health department if the presumptive case becomes a positive case. Prolonged close contact is defined as being within six feet for 15 minutes or more.

- Continue to clean and disinfect all affected areas including buses, classrooms and equipment
- Notify the State Department of Education about this situation if the test results warrant
- Continue to offer education through distance learning throughout the closure

What will the Regional Health (CRAHD) department do?

- Advise the school district throughout this situation
- Partner with the district to conduct contact tracing as rapidly as possible
- Provide the language for staff to ask the appropriate questions of those identified as primary contacts

What will emergency management do?

- Continue to coordinate town-wide efforts to assist Old Saybrook citizens who have tested positive

What should you do if your child is on the close contact list:

- Continue to encourage him/her to learn remotely using the platforms and processes we have developed and practiced
- Wear masks!
- Wash hands!
- Require your child to stay at home until the quarantine period is ended by CRAHD through an announcement from the school district.
- Continue to keep your child at home if she/he becomes sick. Take care of yourself!
- Call your primary health care provider if your child or anyone in your family has symptoms of COVID-19
 - 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 answer any and all questions you may be asked if the school or CRAHD staff call to notify you that the presumed case has become a positive case and you had direct contact. This will help the community stop the spread.
- As always, everyone should monitor their health and stay at home if they develop symptoms and contact their health care provider to determine if testing is needed.
- If you are in the process of being tested for COVID and the results come back positive, we ask that you immediately notify Karen at kvanderhorst@oldsaybrookschoools.org or Jan at jperruccio@oldsabyrookschoools.org to inform us. This is imperative as we are required to report positive case numbers to the Connecticut Department of Public Health. We also will utilize this information with medical professionals to make any further decisions regarding our planned school reopening dates.

If you have not been informed that you are a possible contact and have not been asked to work/learn from home, please continue to take all the mitigating precautions you have been taking.

For additional information on COVID-19 symptoms, please see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>. We are committed to providing your child and our staff with a safe and healthy environment. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing cooperation with our COVID-19 prevention policies and procedures as we work to help protect our students, staff members, and families.

We know this is just one more stressful event in an unusually difficult year, but we are going to work together to get through this with you and our families. Stay well.

We will communicate with you again no later than Thursday, December 3, 2020.

Jan, Sheila and Joe