



Sharon Springs CSD

The Health & Safety of Our



SSCS Family is Our #1 Priority

A Small School With a BIG Heart

March 8, 2021

SSCS Family,

The purpose of this communication is to inform you that Sharon Springs CSD received information from the Schoharie County Health Department that a member of our SSCS family has tested positive for COVID-19 on the morning of March 8th. The individual's last day on campus was Friday, March 5th. Individuals (both SSCS students and staff) who have been in contact with the infected person have been contacted by school officials and will be contacted by the New York Health Department Contact Tracers within the next several days. These individuals are subject to a mandatory quarantine as per the Health Department guidelines. Of course, if symptoms occur while individuals are on quarantine they should seek medical attention, but are not required to unless symptoms occur.

Summary of Contact Tracing Protocols

When the Schoharie County Health Department informs the district that there is a positive case, the district's COVID Response Team meets to begin gathering all of the information for the health department to begin contact tracing protocols. This includes information like class lists, last date in school, seating charts, lunch information, recess information, wearing of masks, social distancing, amount of time spent with individuals, transportation to and from school, and other details that lend to the most complete assessment of the situation.

The main consideration when recommending mandatory quarantine for precautionary purposes is prolonged, direct contact with a positive individual. This is a summary of how the process plays out:

- A COVID positive individual is classified as Person-A – Placed under mandatory isolation by the Schoharie County Health Department and monitored daily.
- A person in prolonged, direct contact with a COVID positive individual (person classified as Person-A) is classified as Person- B –Placed under mandatory quarantine by the Schoharie County Health Department and monitored daily.
- A person in contact with an individual classified as Person-B is considered to be Person- C– No action recommended by the Schoharie County Health Department unless Person-B becomes symptomatic and confirmed positive.
- Please add the following phone number (518-295-8365) to your contacts. It is the number for the Schoharie County Health Department.

We cannot emphasize enough that parents, students and staff members need to be just as vigilant following guidelines outside of school, this includes limiting group gatherings, practicing good hygiene, wearing masks and following social distance guidelines.



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It is important to know that:

- All students and staff are required to complete the daily health attestation
- All students and staff are required to wear masks
- Classroom seats are spaced with appropriate social distance and students have assigned seats
- Classrooms are cleaned regularly throughout the school day, and deep cleaned and sanitized at the end of each school day
- Seating assignments also occur on buses and in the cafeteria

Safety is everyone's responsibility, so we work together to keep everyone safe. Please do not send your child to school sick. If you suspect that you, your child, or someone in your family has been potentially exposed to COVID-19, please contact your personal medical provider.

The district will continue to closely monitor this situation and will stay in close communication with local and state health officials to ensure we are taking all the appropriate steps. As always, the health and safety of students and staff is a priority and we appreciate your continued support.

Please note that The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other privacy laws restrict us from disclosing or confirming any personally identifiable information. We cannot identify anyone who has tested positive.

Sharon Springs CSD continues to follow all prevention protocols in accordance with guidelines from the New York State Health Department and CDC — this includes a thorough cleaning and disinfecting of our entire school. We join our SSCS family, to continue to urge everyone to take the risks associated with this pandemic seriously.

For further information please visit www.sharonsprings.org >Administrative Updates

Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Tom Yorke
K - 12 Building Principal
Sharon Spring CSD