



January 27, 2021

Dear West York Families:

Today, January 27, 2021, District Administration was informed of new positive cases as follows:

- **West York Area Middle School - One New Positive Case**

At this time, the West York Area Middle School is closed and will reopen to in-person learning for students on Friday, January 29, 2021. If you have any questions about this, please refer to the [communication of Monday, January 25, 2021](#). We will continue to monitor our positive cases and inform everyone should the situation require additional measures.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADoH) has announced that they will follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding the time required to *quarantine. According to this latest, updated, guidance, certain situations may allow the quarantine time to be reduced from 14 days to 10 days as long as the parents/caregivers attest to monitoring symptoms, daily, for the entire 14-day period. The guidance is new and we will communicate what this means should your children be asked to quarantine.

We will continue to notify the community of all new cases that were reported after the close of business (including those reported over the weekend, holidays, etc.) on the next business day. Typically, these messages are sent at the end of the day. This will provide our nurses and administrators time to identify and inform all of those potentially in close contact with the positive case.

Please visit the District [website](#) for information on the current case(s)/quarantine data. The data is updated daily at midnight.

The District has contacted those who may have been in close contact with the positive cases and has advised them to **quarantine**, per guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

***An Important Note About What Quarantine Means**

The [Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) defines quarantine as:

Quarantine is used to keep someone *who might have been exposed to COVID-19* away from others. Quarantine helps prevent the spread of disease that can occur before a person knows they are sick or if they are infected with the virus without feeling symptoms. People in quarantine should stay home, separate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department.

For those who are quarantined, please understand that this means:

- No trips outside the home
- Separation from others, even in the home, to the extent possible
- No participation in sports or other activities - period.
- Following mitigation practices (masks, handwashing, etc) at all times
- Monitoring your health/health of children for symptoms as outlined below

Possible COVID-19 Symptoms

- **Fever of 100 or Higher**
- **Cough**
- **Shortness of Breath**
- **Difficulty Breathing**
- **New Loss of Taste or Smell**
- **Sore Throat**

- **Runny Nose/Congestion**
- **Chills**
- **Muscle Pains**
- **Nausea and/or Vomiting**
- **Headache**
- **Diarrhea**

The (PADOH) recommends using 15 consecutive minutes of exposure at a distance of six feet or less as an operational definition for “close contact.” However, there are circumstances when someone should be considered a close contact of a case after being within six feet for less than 15 consecutive minutes. Recent changes to the guidelines include looking at additional factors when assessing close contacts, such as being in extremely close proximity (e.g., face to face) or the infected person exhibiting symptoms.

Throughout the pandemic, our District has been in contact with the PADOH, and we developed our District Health and Safety Plan in compliance with the guidance provided. We will continue with our cleaning and disinfecting processes to ensure all impacted areas are properly sanitized.

I can’t stress enough the importance of contacting your school nurse immediately if you, your child(ren), or anyone in your household are showing any symptoms of COVID-19 or have been tested for the virus. If you have any questions, please contact your child’s school nurse. Contact information for school nurses can be found in the [family packet](#).

Your confidence in the District is appreciated, and we will continue to communicate updates on this and all COVID-19-related situations as appropriate.

Sincerely,

Todd M. Davies
Superintendent of Schools