



Superintendent of Schools
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Mr. Stefan Czaporowski
Superintendent of Schools

October 28, 2020

Dear WPS families,

Every week, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health releases its data designating each city and town as either gray, green, yellow, or red based on each municipality's average COVID 19 daily incident rate per 100,000 people over the previous two weeks. Cities and towns in the "red" have logged more than 8 new coronavirus cases per 100,000 people. Last week, the city of Westfield was labeled a red zone.

I want to take this opportunity to review our procedures for positive coronavirus cases in our schools. As soon as we are notified that a member of the school community has tested positive for COVID-19, we immediately reach out to the City of Westfield Department of Public Health and contact tracing begins. Last week, the CDC updated their definition of "close contact" with an infected person from fifteen minutes at one time to fifteen minutes cumulatively over a 24-hour period. Close contacts are notified by the school department or the city health department that they must quarantine for 14 days. The affected areas within the school building are deep cleaned and disinfected. Lastly, the entire community in that school is notified about the situation. We are committed to communicating with transparency to our families and staff, but we also must comply with confidentiality regulations.

We know that COVID 19 cases are on the rise locally, across the state, and throughout the nation. As we move forward with our phased reopening plan, know that our priority as a district continues to be the safety of our students and staff. I want to reassure you that we have planned for the inevitability of positive cases and have a comprehensive plan in place for the continued sanitation of our schools. Our students and staff have been diligently adhering to safety protocols by wearing masks, washing hands, and physically distancing. We are also grateful to our families who are keeping their children at home when they are feeling ill or exhibiting symptoms. These actions greatly reduce the risk of additional transmission. If you have any further questions or health concerns in regard to COVID 19, please contact our district Nurse Supervisor, Jennifer Chapman at jennifer.chapman@schoolsofwestfield.org.

Sincerely,

Stefan Czaporowski
Superintendent of Schools
Westfield Public Schools