

January 15, 2021

Dear Staff and Community:

On January 13<sup>th</sup>, we learned that a student athlete at West Potomac tested positive for COVID-19. As a result, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has worked closely with the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) to determine any exposure to students or staff while at school. Although we have had several COVID positive cases in athletics since beginning in December, all have been community cases. This case, unfortunately, constituted an epi-linked spread between our student athlete and other student athletes at another FCPS school.

The FCHD Containment Branch has completed their investigation. All potential contacts have now been contacted by the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD).

**If you have not received further communication from the FCHD, you are not considered a contact at this time.**

Based on the results of the contact investigation and tracing, FCPS has addressed all recommendations of the FCHD.

If you have questions, you may contact the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-267-3511 (9 am to 7 pm weekdays and 9:30 am to 5 pm on weekends). You may also email [ffxcovid@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ffxcovid@fairfaxcounty.gov) (monitored 8 am to 6 pm weekdays).

FCPS maintains a COVID-19 Dashboard that shows daily cases at <https://www.fcps.edu/return-school/fcps-confirmed-covid-19-case-reporting>. This provides information on our division health metrics and COVID-19 cases.

We understand the COVID-19 pandemic has created anxiety for many individuals in our community. Please know that this information is being shared to keep you informed and aware as we all work together to lessen the spread of COVID-19. Given the continued local spread of COVID-19, the Health Department recommends that you and your family members take the following steps to protect yourselves and others:

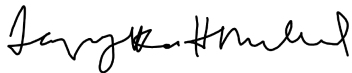
- **Limit your risk of exposure to COVID-19 by staying home whenever you can.**
- **Wear a face covering whenever you leave your home.**
- **Practice social distancing.** If you stay 6 feet away or more from others, the virus will not spread through coughs and sneezes.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water**, especially after coughing or sneezing. Teach your children to wash their hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to

set a good example by doing this yourself. If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizers may be used.

- **Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue** and throw tissues in the trash after use. If tissues are not available, cover coughs and sneezes with your upper sleeve
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.** Germs spread this way.
- **Do not send any child experiencing a cough or runny nose to school.** If your child comes to school with these symptoms, **he or she will be sent home.** Your child will require a note from their healthcare provider with a diagnosis before returning to school. Depending on your child's diagnosis, you may be required to keep your child home and away from others until the child has been symptom free and without fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medication (i.e. he or she should not attend school, school functions, sporting or extracurricular activities, or leave the home except to seek medical care).
- **Clean and disinfect surfaces** that are often touched at home.
- Take care of your health overall. **Stay current on your vaccinations, including the flu vaccine,** eat well, and exercise to help your body stay resilient.

Thank you for your cooperation, support, and patience as we work through the COVID-19 emergency together.

Sincerely,



Principal