

SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Kate M. Carter
Superintendent of Schools
(860) 291-1205

Tracie D. Peterson
Assistant Superintendent
Curriculum and Instruction
(860) 291-1210

Colin J. McNamara
Assistant Superintendent
Personnel and Administration
(860) 291-1215

Chris M. Chemerka
Director of Finance & Operations
(860) 291-1269

D R E A M . A C H I E V E . I N S P I R E .

September 28, 2020

Dear Families and Staff:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that an Eli Terry student has tested positive for COVID-19. The student has been participating in distance learning since the start of the school year and, as a result, has not been in school. Contact tracing conducted by the South Windsor Health Department indicates that no other students have been in contact with this student outside of school. As a result, the school does not need to be closed nor do any Eli Terry classrooms need to be quarantined. While it does not impact the operations of our schools, I am informing all families in an effort to avoid rumors and the circulation of misinformation.

Per CDC guidelines and our local health department, the student will remain in isolation as directed. Please know that individuals who are identified as a "close contact" will be notified by the South Windsor health department directly and will be advised to quarantine for 14 days. If the number of close contacts exceeds the department's capacity for communicating with close contacts, you may hear directly from school nursing staff. A close contact is an individual who has spent 15 minutes or more within six feet of the person with COVID-19.

Although student and staff confidentiality preclude us from providing the names of individuals impacted by this virus, I know you will join me in keeping those who are sick in our collective thoughts. Please continue to do your part in reducing community spread by washing your hands, wearing a mask, and adhering to social distancing guidelines. The checklist referenced below should be used by families and staff to monitor health symptoms before arriving at school each day.

This is the district's first positive case associated with a student to be reported since the opening of schools. Because it is our first student or staff positive case, I am communicating out of an abundance of caution despite no action needing to be taken. Each case and the actions required in response will vary. When a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, I will inform all school communities and announce steps that will need to be taken such as closing a school or quarantining individual cohorts or classrooms.

We thank you for partnering with us to keep our students and staff safe during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,



Kate Carter, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

COVID-19 Symptom checklist:

- Fever (100° 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

For additional information on COVID-19 symptoms, please visit the [CDC website, here](#).

For more information on what to do if you or a family member has possible symptoms, a diagnosis, or exposure to COVID-19, please see [Addendum 5: Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts, available here](#)