

WEBUTUCK CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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Superintendent
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November 9, 2020

Dear Webutuck Families and Staff,

This morning, November 9, 2020, the District was made aware that we have another individual of our school community that has tested positive for COVID-19. This case is from our Webutuck Elementary School community. We are currently working with the Dutchess County Department of Health. Due to federal health and privacy laws, no further information about the individual can be disclosed. As you know, we have been preparing for this event for many months and have excellent collaboration with the health department as well as internal protocols. We continue to follow these protocols consistently to prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff.

At this time, the District is working closely with the Dutchess County Department of Health in order to complete contact tracing for all students and staff. The District will extend its full remote learning model one (1) additional day. This means that the expected return to our hybrid model will be scheduled for Tuesday, November 17. If there is any update to this, we will inform you.

Any students and staff who were exposed to the individual are being contacted separately by a school official today or tomorrow. Those exposed (who were within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes) will be mandated to quarantine for 14 days from the date of their last exposure. Additionally, we recommend that these individuals be test for COVID-19 as a precaution. Persons who have been exposed will also receive a call from a New York State Contact Tracer. This call can take up to a week to receive. Please provide the contact tracer with the information they need. All such information will be kept confidential by the school, the Dutchess County Department of Health, and the New York State Department of Health. Providing this information helps protect everyone. A list of testing sites can be found on the Dutchess County Health Website. www.DutchessNY.gov/CoronavirusTesting You may also visit the “New York State Find a Test Site Near You” web page:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you> Once you enter a zip code, a list/map view of the nearest test sites will become available.

I know that our District having these first COVID-19 cases this school year is concerning news, perhaps especially because we have had such remarkable good fortune. Nevertheless, I ask you to please respect the privacy of this individual and others who may need to quarantine during this difficult time. Please do not speculate as to their identity.

Please know that we are doing everything we can to maintain a healthy, safe school environment and that we continue to have good support and collaboration from the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health as we make decisions regarding our school.

I wish you and your family good health and I continue to thank you for your support and for your commitment to working to ensure good health for the whole community.

Sincerely,

Raymond Castellani
Superintendent