

The Brooklyn Public Schools

119 Gorman Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234
Phone: (860) 774-9732
Fax: (860) 774-6938

Patricia L. Buell
Superintendent
buell@brooklynschools.org

A NEW CASE OF COVID-19 **Connecticut COVID-19 Response** **Northeast District Department of Health** **Free Priority Testing Sites**

March 11, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

I hope that you are well. I was informed today that we have had two new positive cases of COVID-19 in our school community. One case has no contacts and the other case is going to require us to quarantine a grade 6 cohort from Brooklyn Middle School. The entire class, NOT THE ENTIRE GRADE is required to quarantine and engage in learning remotely.

At this time Brooklyn Schools will continue to remain open and will continue to follow the current mitigation strategies. Students who are being asked to quarantine due to being a contact are asked to log into their Google classrooms during their quarantine to engage in lessons that will be made available through recordings and access to the teacher or staff members if they feel well enough to do so.

Everyone who is considered a contact has been informed directly via school messenger. We have learned that the Department of Health will first have the school nurses reach out to the families and staff who impacted. Please feel free to reach out to NDDH or our nurses if you have any questions. In accordance with HIPPA guidelines, we are unable to share specific information about the members of our school community who have been affected.

We ask that if your child becomes ill or if you have your child tested, please communicate with the school nurse so we are able to contact trace and we can slow down the transmission of the virus.

Please be aware of the symptoms below and seek medical care if you or your child should feel ill.

- Fever (100.4°F or higher) or chills
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Sore throat or Congestion/runny nose
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- 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 [Centers for Disease Prevention and Control](#) website or contact your medical provider directly. Please know that there are a number of local COVID-19 testing sites for your convenience. [Free priority testing sites link](#) shows that the closest site is [Generations Family Health Center](#). Our school nurses have been sharing this resource with families who have asked and can answer questions if you have any.

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Staff and students exhibiting any of the above symptoms, or feeling ill, should remain home and call their medical provider to report their symptoms and ask about testing prior to seeking in-person care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital. Please also call the school nurse.

There ARE COVID-19 variants in northeastern Connecticut. These new strains are highly contagious. You are encouraged to wear your mask any time you are outside of your home or are with people who do not live in your home. While the State is loosening restrictions, it is still necessary to be careful and protect yourself and those you love from spreading the virus.

School meals can be picked up at BMS or the Community Center on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:00-8:30. Please call if you need assistance with food.

Travel advisory: please be aware of the advisory. This is to reduce the spread of the virus! I hope that you continue to be careful and be well!

I will continue to inform you of new cases again since we have students in the school. There have been some cases in the past couple of months that impacted individuals who were not in school or had no exposure to others. Now that we are in school again, I will be sending communications home if there are cases in our school community resulting in quarantining of others.

As always, thank you for your hard work and commitment to achievement in Brooklyn! Thank you for doing your part to support learning in school and at home while remaining safe!

Sincerely,

Patricia L. Buell

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