

Whitehall-Coplay School District

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JOSEPH R. SHIELDS, *MEMBER*



Administration Building
2940 MacArthur Road
Whitehall, PA 18052-3408
(610) 439-1431
Fax: (610) 435-0124

LORIE D. HACKETT, Ed. D.
SUPERINTENDENT
CHRISTOPHER A. SCHIFFERT
ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT
J. MICHAEL MALAY Jr.
BUSINESS MANAGER
BROOKE A. CLARY
DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EDUCATION
BARBARA A. CHOMIK, Ed.D.
DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION
STEPHANIE MCFADDEN
HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Dear Parent/Guardian:

November 19, 2020

On November 19, 2020, the Whitehall-Coplay School District was notified that two High School students were diagnosed with COVID-19. The High School will remain closed to students through Wednesday, November 25, 2020. Students are expected to return to the regularly scheduled Blended Model of Instruction on Tuesday, December 1, 2020.

During the school closure, the building and specifically the classrooms and spaces used by the individuals will be cleaned in accordance with CDC guidelines. All High School students are instructed to log on to their teacher's google classroom sites each day during the closure and work accordingly. LCTI students are expected to log into their LCTI Schoology accounts for further direction from their instructors. If there are any changes to how instruction will be provided beyond Wednesday, November 25, 2020, you will receive additional information from the High School administration.

All extracurricular activities for the high school remain cancelled during the school closure and are slated to resume Friday, November 27, 2020.

The Whitehall-Coplay School District will continue to work in partnership with the Pennsylvania Department of Health throughout this process and will continue to monitor the situation of COVID-19 cases daily.

Please remember that Lehigh County continues to be in the Substantial classification for the level of community transmission. Based on this information, the district will continue to monitor the situation very closely, as it may impact our instructional delivery in the future.

COVID-19 spreads mainly by respiratory droplets and close contact with a person who is infected with the virus. We are working closely with the PA Department of Health to determine those individuals who may have had close contact with the latest cases and may need to quarantine. Quarantining of close contacts is the public health strategy used to break any potential spread of the virus in school. If you or your child are identified as a close contact (defined as an individual who was within 6 feet of an infectious person for at least 15 minutes or who was directly exposed to respiratory secretions [e.g., cough or sneeze]), you will be contacted by a representative of the Pennsylvania Department of Health who will provide further information and instructions.

The Whitehall-Coplay School District, an equal opportunity employer, will not discriminate in employment, educational programs or activities, based on race, sex, handicap or because a person is a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam Era. This policy of non-discrimination extends to all other legally protected classifications. Publication of this policy in this document is in accordance with State and Federal laws including Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. We further affirm that all curriculum offerings and student enrollment practices will be handled without discrimination based on sex, race, religion, national origin, or non-job related handicaps or disabilities.

With this notification, we remind you to be diligent about monitoring your child for symptoms of COVID- 19. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from no symptoms to severe illness. If symptoms develop, they appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Please see the [WCSD Student Screening Procedure CARD](#) regarding screening your child at home for symptoms of COVID-19. The CDC continues to update [COVID-19 Symptoms](#) on their website. Refer to this website for the most recent list of symptoms.

Please note that if your child develops a fever, dry cough or other related COVID-19 symptoms, follow [CDC guidelines for what to do if you are sick](#) and the [WCSD Student Screening Card](#) for guidance. **Your child should not attend school until evaluated by his/her physician or licensed care provider.** If your child is diagnosed with COVID- 19, notify the school nurse immediately.

While prompt action is key if your child develops symptoms of COVID- 19, it is equally important to assure that your child is practicing the proper ways to reduce the risk of getting COVID-19. These ways include:

1. Proper use of facial masks (and eye coverings, if using)
2. Avoiding touching his/ her face
3. Appropriate technique for hand washing.
4. Avoiding contact with items frequently touched by others
5. Practicing social distance at all times

There are educational videos on the school website to review these ways to reduce risk. Please also review the CDC [recommendation for taking steps to protect yourself and others](#).

If you have any questions about COVID-19, please contact the PA Department of Health at 1-877--PA-Health or the Local Health Department at 610-821-6770.

We wish you and your family good health and continued safety as we navigate this respiratory pandemic. Thank you for your diligence in helping us to mitigate COVID-19 in our community.

Sincerely,

WCSD Administration