

# Whitehall-Coplay School District

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Dear Parent / Guardian:

March 31, 2021

On March 31, 2021, the Whitehall-Coplay School District learned of one staff and four student COVID-19 cases within the district. The staff case is attributed to the High School and was last present on March 29, 2021. Two of the student cases are attributed to the High School. One was last present on March 23, 2021, and the second is part of the Learn At Home instructional model. The third student case is attributed to Zephyr Elementary and was last present on March 23, 2021. The final student case is attributed to Steckel Elementary and was last present on March 30, 2021.

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.**

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