



November 17, 2020

Dear Germantown Parents/Guardians:

Germantown Central School District was informed today that a student from the secondary school has tested positive for COVID-19.

Per our health and safety protocols, Germantown Central School District has been in communication with the Columbia County Department of Health to determine any necessary follow-up. The county is continuing to investigate at this time.

Due to staffing impacts in our secondary school, we have made the decision to transition to full remote learning for all secondary students in grades 7-12 beginning tomorrow, Wednesday, Nov. 18, until Monday, Nov. 30.

We understand this is a significant change for our students, staff members and families. This decision was not made lightly. Over the past week, we have seen a significant increase in positive cases both in our school district and throughout our region and feel this is a necessary action to keep our students as safe as possible. Our top priority is the health and safety of our entire school community.

During the five remaining instructional days leading up to Thanksgiving recess, the maintenance department will be conducting a deep clean and disinfection of all impacted spaces prior to classes resuming. Please note that Thursday, Nov. 19, will remain a half-day of instruction for students for parent-teacher conferences. Parent teacher conferences will continue as scheduled.

We encourage you to offer your full cooperation if you are contacted by a representative of the local health department or the district. If you are not contacted, there is no further action needed. While I understand that you may want additional details, privacy laws restrict us from disclosing or confirming any personally identifiable information.

We ask that all families continue to follow all safety guidelines outside of school hours including proper use of face coverings, social distancing, proper hand hygiene and avoiding gatherings and travel to states with high positivity rates. We also remind you to please complete the daily health screening form for your child prior to sending them to school.

Please monitor your child(ren) for any symptoms of COVID and report any absences and positive COVID-19 test results to your child's school. Symptoms vary, and some people may not experience any symptoms. Please contact your healthcare provider, or the county health department if you do not have one, to be assessed if you or your child have one or more of these new or worsening symptoms:

- a temperature greater or equal to 100.0° F
- feel feverish or have chills
- cough
- loss of taste or smell
- fatigue
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- muscle pain or body aches
- headaches or nasal congestion/running nose

Thank you all for your ongoing efforts to keep Germantown safe and healthy. Please contact me directly with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Bragg
Superintendent of Schools
Germantown Central School District