

News From the Dragon Den

Updates from Principal Williams

November 2, 2020

Greetings, Mallinckrodt Family!

I hope you are well and enjoyed your weekend! I wanted to take a moment to share with you some information regarding a positive COVID case at our school. Here is what you should know:



- Late Friday evening, the case was identified.
- The District's Johns Hopkins-trained contact tracers began their investigation. The team has located and communicated with all persons who had close contact with the individual who tested positive.
- Out of an abundance of caution, some members of the Mallinckrodt community will enter a 14-day quarantine.
- The school building was cleaned with fidelity on Saturday.

Moving forward, this information will not always be shared with the school community, but rather those affected. In addition to this, you will not be privy to staff member's personal information.

Keep in mind that throughout the year, there will be various reasons staff members are out (non-COVID sickness of self or child, child quarantine due to other COVID exposure, outside COVID exposure, etc.), and with us sending every student and staff member home with any symptoms, staff absences will increase across the board considerably this year.

At Mallinckrodt Academy, in conjunction with Saint Louis Public Schools, we are in the business of educating children and giving them the academic, social and emotional tools they need to become future leaders. That said, student and staff safety is always our first priority. The district has put in place a COVID Response Team trained by Johns Hopkins that works collaboratively with the City of St. Louis Department of Health.

Any member of our school community who tests positive for COVID-19 must stay home for at least 10 days following their positive test result. Additionally, those individuals cannot return unless they receive doctor's clearance. The doctor's note must be dated at least 10 days after the positive test result. Documentation must be provided before returning to school.

If a student has a close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes) with someone who tests positive for COVID within two days of such contact, the student must quarantine for 14 days following that contact. This is in cases of both school and outside exposures. If the student develops symptoms during that time, the isolation period will be extended. If the positive person is a household member, the quarantine period will last at least 24 days after the family member's positive test result; with the 14 days starting only after the family member has been cleared by a doctor.

All of the above scenarios are tracked and handled by our Contact Tracing Team, working out of the Board of Education's Central Office for all schools. Potential exposures as reported by SLPS staff, SLPS families, and the Department of Health (working directly with the team to report any SLPS student cases) are all tracked and traced until all affected individuals are returned to school.

Students and teachers cannot attend school if they have any COVID-related symptoms: fever (100.4 and above), sore throat, congestion/runny nose, headache, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, fatigue/muscle or body

aches, cough, difficulty breathing, loss of taste/smell. Please note this information is subject to change if the CDC/DOH guidance changes at any time.

Please refer to the [Student Symptom Decision Tree](#) for additional information about when students may return following these symptoms, and whether documentation must be provided prior to return.

Our efforts to clean, wear masks, and social distance are working! Even in cases when a positive student or staff member has been in a room around others, Contact Tracers are consistently seeing the virus not being transmitted. The kids and staff at Mallinckrodt are really doing a good job at following all of the precautions.

I hope this gives you some clarity as we continue to keep all members of our school community safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Williams