

# WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Damion Macioci**  
Superintendent of Schools

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October 7, 2020

Dear West Essex Families,

Today the District was informed that three individuals who were present at West Essex Middle School last week have tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The individuals were present in the building on the following dates: two individuals on September 29, one individual on September 30, and one individual on October 1. Our District is coordinating closely with public health officials and following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), state, and local health department guidance in order to assure the health and safety of our community. Federal and state laws strictly prohibit the release of private health information of any individual.

Local health departments where patients reside have implemented a [contact tracing](#) process that includes an interview of the infected individual, to identify locations and persons with whom the infected individual has had contact. Once identified, those individuals who were at a heightened risk of exposure will be contacted directly by local health officials. Health departments act at all times in accordance with all applicable municipal, county, state, and federal laws and persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 are under isolation from the public.

After consultation with our local health officials and based on the [New Jersey Department of Health](#) (NJDOH) criteria, it was determined these cases are related to exposure outside the school setting. For this reason, there is no need to close school or for staff, students, or families to take any additional action.

Our school district will continue to adhere to existing cleaning practices and procedures with increased routine cleaning and disinfecting, especially of frequently touched surfaces and objects.

We understand the level of concern regarding COVID-19. We encourage parents and students to continue following the CDC promoted safeguards, such as:

- Staying home when you are sick
- Washing hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks, and utensils
- Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart)
- Wearing a face covering while in school
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms

As always, we appreciate our community's support and cooperation. You can assist us by remaining vigilant but sensible in your approach to dealing with this health concern.

Should you have any questions about this situation, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

*Damion Macioci*

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