

September 21, 2020

Dear EHPS Families and Faculty,

Greetings! I hope this letter finds you and your family well. This past weekend gave us our first taste of fall and all the refreshing air that the season can bring to us. I am writing to you today to share some additional information that you may find beneficial as we all diligently work to keep our schools, kids, faculty and community safe.

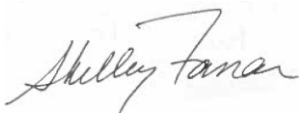
• **Sick? STAY HOME!!!**

- If you or someone in your family has COVID symptoms...stay home
- If you get tested for any reason for COVID...stay home
- If you are a close contact of someone who has COVID...Stay home
 - COVID-19 may have many symptoms and they range from mild to severe. Staff and students should stay home, avoid close contact with others, wash their hands frequently, wear a mask, and if coughing, cover the mouth with a tissue. If a student stays home due to feeling ill, the school nurse should be notified. If a staff or student experiences COVID symptoms the District is encouraging the staff/student to be tested. If the student/staff are tested, they must remain home until the test results are reported. If you are not considered a close contact and you have negative test results you will be able to return to school or work as long as you are feeling well and without a fever

- **Close Contact:** Close contact is a term used to identify individuals who have been close to someone who has been identified as a positive case of COVID-19. Close Contact means that you have been within 6ft of an infected person for at least 15 minutes (with or without a mask). This is an important distinction as we contract trace (see below) cases. Students or staff identified as "Close Contacts" will be required to quarantine for 14 days. If you are in "Close Contact" in your home to someone identified as a positive case of COVID-19, you should let your School Nurse know immediately and remain home for the assigned quarantine period.

- **Contact Tracing:** Contact Tracing is a process co-opted by EHPS and the East Hartford Department of Public Health (EHDPH) to speak directly to the individual identified as a positive case of COVID-19 and then work to identify close contacts. Using a guided interview process, the purpose of Contact Tracing is to identify potentially infected individuals and mitigate virus spread. In the EHPS COVID-19 Case Response Process, the identified positive individual (faculty/student) will be carefully interviewed to identify close contacts. In the case of students, all teachers on the student's schedule will be contacted and interviewed regarding personal contact as well as observations of potential student close contacts. These observations include class attendance for the past two days, seating assignments, bus information and information on lunch seating. If other students are identified by either the confirmed case or the teacher, these students will also be contacted by the School Nurse, interviewed and assigned quarantine dates. It is important to note that only the students or staff identified by the confirmed case of COVID-19 will be contacted for contact tracing. Please note that following initial screens with EHPS staff, Close Contacts should also expect a phone call from the Public Health department.

My best for a healthy fall. Please do not hesitate to reach out to if I can be of assistance.



Shelley Farrar
Nursing Supervisor
District COVID Liaison
860-622-5118