



Binghamton City School District

Christopher Columbus School
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November 24, 2020

On the afternoon of Monday, Nov. 23, the district was notified that an employee at East Middle School tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, this afternoon Tuesday, Nov. 24 two EMS employees tested positive for the COVID-19 virus through the district's surveillance testing program. Information regarding these individuals' identities cannot be released. After receiving the positive results, the individuals were discreetly notified and promptly left the building.

District officials are assisting the Broome County Health Department with a contact tracing investigation, and immediately reached out to those likely to be contacted by the health department upon news of these positive results and instructed them to stay home today.

If there was any person in direct or proximate contact with these individuals, they will be placed in quarantine, per New York State Department of Health guidelines. The impacted areas of the building are being disinfected.

Exposure to COVID-19 can occur from any person-to-person or proximate contact. There are several steps that can minimize the spread of all respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, according to the New York State Department of Health:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

We will continue to notify you of any additional cases of COVID-19 in this building and will notify employees and families immediately in the event of any interruptions to the school schedule. We realize this is a serious matter of great concern, and we appreciate your patience and understanding.

Educating, empowering and challenging all students to become productive, global citizens through innovative approaches to learning.