



Binghamton City School District

Christopher Columbus School
164 Hawley Street
PO Box 2126
Binghamton, NY 13902-2126
Phone: (607) 762-8100
Fax: (607) 762-8110

December 1, 2020

On the afternoon of Tuesday, Dec. 1, the district was notified that an employee at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School tested positive for the COVID-19 virus through the district's surveillance testing program. After receiving the positive result, the employee promptly left the building. Information regarding this individual's identity cannot be released. We ask that you please respect this person's privacy.

District officials assisted the Broome County Health Department with a contact tracing investigation. Two additional employees were quarantined as a result of this case.

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.