



**Binghamton City School District**

Christopher Columbus School

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**December 21, 2020**

On Monday, Dec. 21, the district learned that four employees at Thomas Jefferson Elementary tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. Two employees tested positive through the district's surveillance testing program, while two tested positive outside of school. Information regarding the identities of these individuals cannot be released. We ask that you please respect their privacy. These individuals will be placed in isolation for the mandated number of days.

The district is assisting the Broome County Health Department with a contact tracing investigation. Six adults and 28 students in the building have been quarantined as the result of these positive cases.

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.*