



Binghamton City School District

Christopher Columbus School
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November 12, 2020

On Thursday, Nov. 12, 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.

Per New York State Health Department guidelines, any person who had potential exposure to the virus may be quarantined by the Broome County Health Department for up to 14 days. A contact tracing investigation is underway, and the health department will contact any individuals who were exposed. In addition, our building principal will contact any families of affected students to discuss a plan for virtual learning during the quarantine period. The impacted area of the building is 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 is 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 appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work to ensure the safety of everyone in our district. We will continue to keep you informed in the event of any additional positive cases in this building.

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