

WEST DEPTFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

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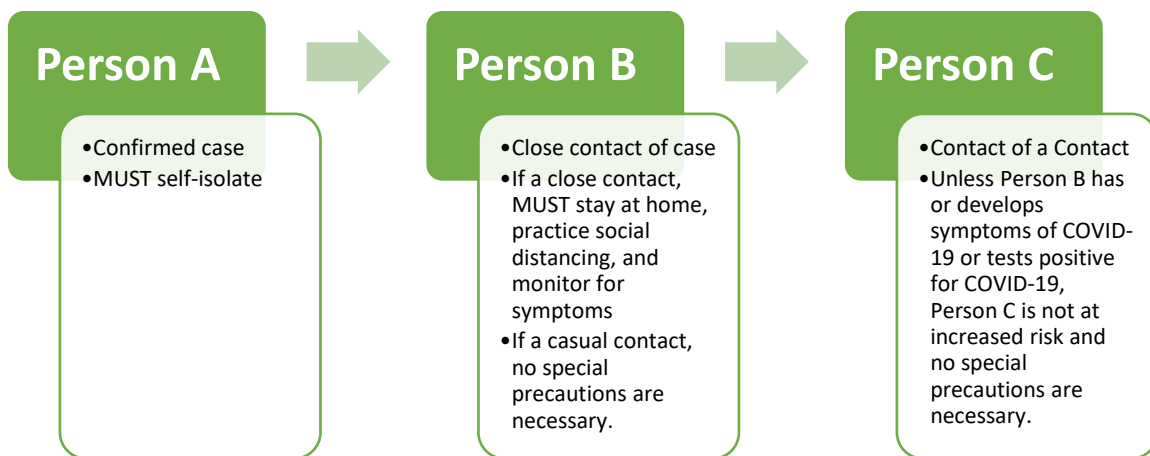
September 21, 2020

To West Deptford Families,

With some student learning already occurring in-person, and in anticipation of our November 10th Hybrid reopening, we wanted to make you aware of our protocols in the event that we do have positive COVID-19 cases.

Communication of Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Procedure

1. Each Principal will notify all students, staff, and parents with a general letter if there is a confirmed COVID-19 person who was in the school building. Recipients of this general notification requires no action by any student or staff member.
2. Individuals identified through contact tracing as being a “close contact” with a confirmed COVID-19 person will receive additional notification. Recipients of this “close contact” letter must stay at home for 14 days from the date of exposure, practice social distancing, and monitor for symptoms.



“Close Contacts” are individuals who are within 6 feet of a confirmed COVID-19 person for 10 consecutive minutes or more. A “Casual Contact” is defined as someone who has been near a confirmed case of COVID-19 while they were infectious, but is considered at lower risk than a close contact. Casual contacts should still be vigilant and watch for symptoms, but casual contacts are NOT required to self-isolate in their homes UNLESS they develop symptoms.

More information regarding required actions can be found here:

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/COVID_test-result-iq-timetable.pdf

Required Actions by a School with Multiple Confirmed COVID-19 Cases

If there are two or more cases of individuals in the school within a 14-day timespan, we have been given guidance with varied responses required by a School District. In the event of a positive case, the West Deptford Township School District will work with the New Jersey Department of Health to ensure we are taking appropriate actions.

Please see this chart for possible responses:

SCENARIO	CLOSURE
1 confirmed case in the school	School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive case are excluded from school for 14 days.
2 or more cases in the same classroom (outbreak limited to one cohort)	School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive case are excluded from school for 14 days. Recommendations for whether the entire classroom would be considered exposed will be based on public health investigation.
2 or more cases within 14 days, but are linked to an exposure outside the school setting (ie: in the same household, exposed at the same event outside of school)	School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive case are excluded from school for 14 days.
2 or more cases within 14 days, linked together by some activity in school, but who are in different classrooms (outbreak involving multiple cohorts)	Recommendations for whether school closure is warranted will be based on investigation by local health department.
A significant community outbreak is occurring or has recently occurred (ie: large event or large local employer) and is impacting multiple staff, students, and families served by the school community	Consider closing school for 14 days, based on investigation by local health department.
2 or more cases are identified within 14 days that occur across multiple classrooms and a clear connection between cases cannot be easily identified (outbreak involving multiple cohorts)	Close school for 14 days.
Very high risk of community transmission (refer to COVID-19 Regional Risk Level Matrix)	Close school until COVID-19 transmission decreases.

**Note: A temporary closure may also be considered for a period of 2-5 days if a student or staff member attended school while potentially infectious, before being confirmed as having COVID-19. This short-term dismissal allows time for local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school and perform contact tracing protocols.*

If you have questions regarding this process, please contact your building Principal.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Cappello
 Superintendent
 West Deptford Schools