



Orange Township Public Schools

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D
Office of the Superintendent



March 24, 2020

Good Day Orange Township Public School District Community,

I write this afternoon to address concerns and questions regarding the current COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our school community. First and foremost, we have been informed that a member of our Orange School District community has tested positive for COVID-19. Please note, any persons deemed to have been in close contact with the employee will receive direct communication from the Orange Health Department.

Given the nature of this pandemic, we anticipate more positive cases and trust the Orange Health Department to guide the community through whatever processes are necessary at this time. We hope that our proactive closing of the schools due to this national emergency has helped to mitigate the spread of the infection. The Orange Township Public School District will continue to work closely with public health officials, assist in any manner possible, and keep our School community well-informed.

Please understand that due to state and federal privacy laws, we will not be able to share specific information with you. Any notifications will be handled by the local health department. In accordance with state laws, we expect the health department will perform a disease investigation to identify where the individual lives and close contacts that may be at additional risk and recent places of travel. When close contacts are identified, they will be informed to self-quarantine for a period of up to 14 days. Should individuals develop symptoms (fever, cough, or difficulty breathing) during the 14 days or receive a confirmed laboratory report for COVID-19, they must contact their local health department.

Due to the evolving nature of information, residents are encouraged to contact the 24/7 NJ COVID-19 Call Center at 1-800-222-1222 or 1-800-962-1253 if calling from a non-NJ cell phone for the most up to date information. New Jersey residents can also call NJ 211 with questions or concerns about COVID-19 by calling 2-1-1. NJ 211 is New Jersey's statewide comprehensive information and referral service operated by United Way of New Jersey. Residents can also text NJCOVID to 898-211 to receive text information and stay informed. To receive live text assistance, residents can text their zip code to 898-211.

We are in this together as a school community. During this time, our staff has been working closely with our families on several facets of distance learning. Your continued resilience during this pandemic has been noticed and certainly appreciated. In Orange, we are one team and are certainly built strong. In closing, please stay safe and know we are here for you.

Educationally yours,

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.

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Superintendent of Schools