



BYRAM HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

10 TRIPP LANE ARMONK, NY 10504

March 18, 2020

To the Byram Hills School Community,

Last week we informed the community that a parent of students in the District was symptomatic. That parent finally received results yesterday and tested positive for COVID-19. Principals at the elementary and middle school buildings notified parents yesterday, but did not specify the grade levels. Another parent in the District just informed me today that her husband has tested positive as well. Although the children of both families are healthy and have no symptoms yet, the children are in grades 2, 3, 6, 8 and 12. Whether your child is in these grades or any other grade, it is possible that your child(ren) came into contact with one or more of these children, whether in class, on the bus, in the cafeteria, or in other facilities. The families are now in quarantine. Unfortunately, our new reality is that exposure could come from anywhere.

IMPORTANT: There are no confirmed student cases at this point. Should we hear of a confirmed student case from now until next Wednesday (14 days since we left school), the building principals and I will be in touch with the school community and specific classes.

While this news is very concerning, it was expected that the Coronavirus would affect our community, just as it continues to affect our county and nation. Byram Hills remains closed until April 13, 2020, pending the future evolution of this virus. It is very important that we all practice social distancing in order to mitigate the spread of disease and it is essential that we all continue to practice preventative hygiene.

E-learning commenced today and I look forward to the progression of that learning method for your children. This week, it was expected that teachers share assignments and resources with classes. As we continue to learn and train in this new virtual environment, this learning method will include adaptations. Please continue to communicate with your teachers when you have questions - they are there to support you and your children!

We recognize that students and families may need emotional support during this difficult time. The District's mental health and guidance professionals are available to support your children and will be in touch with families from each building. School psychologists and guidance counselors can be reached via email. If parents or caregivers are experiencing anxiety or stress and need support, please call the Department of Community Mental Health office at (914) 995-1900.

Our community is strong and I am confident that we can provide our children and each other with the resources and personal support needed during this difficult time.

Thank you,

Jen Lamia, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools