



River Forest
Public Schools

Administration Building
7776 Lake Street
River Forest, IL 60305
Phone: 708-771-8282
Fax: 708-771-8291

November 13, 2020

Dear Families and Staff:

This letter is to inform you that an individual at Willard Elementary School has tested positive for COVID-19. As per established directives, the case is being reported to the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH). The individual has not been present onsite or in any of our school buildings for almost two weeks. As such, there are no identified close contacts in the school community. Please note that the case is not the result of school transmission. The health and safety of District 90 students and staff is our highest priority, and we recognize the uncertainty and concern regarding the evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We are following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the state and local health departments for best practices and procedures to protect everyone's health.

To prevent further spread of the disease, Willard Elementary is taking the following steps:

- Contact tracing to identify and notify close contacts (i.e., persons who were within six feet of a COVID-positive individual for 15 minutes or longer starting from 2 days before illness onset), if any.
- Placing staff members and students who are identified as having prolonged close contact to the COVID-19 case(s) in quarantine for 14 days, if any. Close contacts will also receive a separate notification from the Cook County Department of Public Health.
- Ongoing monitoring of students and staff for signs and symptoms of illness and evaluation of illness reports to promptly identify possible outbreaks.
- Conducting a deep clean and disinfection of the area impacted by potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

We will continue to enforce safe practices to prevent, promptly identify, and respond to potential COVID cases, as follows:

- Students and staff who are ill with COVID-like symptoms will promptly be placed in a separate supervised area away from others until they can be sent home.
- Students are required to wear face coverings at all times, as previously directed and per school policy.
- Staff are required to wear face coverings at all times while in contact with children and other staff in the facility.
- We are disinfecting high-touch surfaces including door handles, stair rails, sink faucets, etc. on a consistent basis.

- We are teaching the students who are in attendance about the importance of face coverings, social distancing, and proper handwashing:
 - Students are discouraged from sharing personal items.
 - Students are learning new ways to greet each other without touching.
 - Students are reminded to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth, and to cover coughs and sneezes.
 - Students are being taught to wash their hands frequently and properly, following CDC guidelines on handwashing.

- As we receive more information from the Illinois Department of Public Health and other entities, we will implement additional recommendations and guidelines.

As always, everyone should monitor their health and stay at home if they develop symptoms¹. Sick persons should contact their health care provider to determine if testing is needed. Anyone who develops severe symptoms² should seek medical care immediately. If your child has had close contact with a known case of COVID-19, keep the child at home and notify your primary healthcare provider, your child's school nurse or childcare provider, and your local health department.

We are committed to providing your child and our staff with a safe and healthy environment. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing cooperation with our COVID prevention policies and procedures as we work to help protect your children, your families, and our staff and their families.

Sincerely,



Ed Condon, Ph.D.
Superintendent

¹ 1 Symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

² 2 Severe symptoms of COVID-19 include: trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, bluish lips or face.