

Hopewell Area School District

2354 Brodhead Road

Aliquippa, PA, 15001

October 20, 2020

Dear Hopewell Parents/Guardians,

The administration was notified that one of our 8th grade students at Hopewell Memorial Junior High School is presumed to be positive for COVID19 by the Department of Health. "Presumed positive" means that, even without a COVID test, an individual is showing COVID symptoms and has been exposed to an individual who tested positive for COVID. The student was last in our buildings on Friday, October 16, 2020.

Many parents have inquired about the term "close contact". According to an epidemiologist from the Department of Health, it takes the body 2-3 days after exposure to reproduce the virus and begin shedding the virus to others. Therefore, DOH confirmed that the 2 day period before an individual is tested for COVID or the 2 day period before symptoms began is appropriate in identifying close contacts.

Since receiving this information, we have already cleaned all of the areas in the Junior High building during our virtual learning day yesterday. The PA Department of Health is aware of the case and has completed contact tracing with this individual.

At this time, the District would encourage families to monitor their children's health each day. If your child has any symptoms that could potentially be COVID, please keep them home and contact your medical provider. If someone in your family has been tested or is showing symptoms of Covid, please consider keeping your family at home until you receive the test results. Also, this is a time to remind everyone to continue washing hands and wearing a facial covering. Our nurses are here to keep your child, as well as our entire school community, safe.

This is a time for our families and community to continue to stay vigilant so that we can keep our schools open and remain focused on student learning. We need everyone to assist in these efforts, while students and staff are in school, and as well as when staff and students are out of school.

With Viking PRIDE-

Dr. Michelle Miller
Superintendent