

September 22, 2021

Text of Email to Parent of Kindergarten Students

Good afternoon Kindergarten families. Today, we sent home a letter with your child containing the following information:

We are reaching out to advise families that we were notified today that a member of our school community has tested positive for COVID-19 resulting in the entire Kindergarten grade level (students and staff) being notified about quarantine.

All Kindergarteners will be required to quarantine for 14 days pursuant to CDC guidelines, beginning tomorrow, Thursday, September 23rd. Students would be expected to return to school on Thursday, October 7th. Today, we are sending a packet of material for students to work on while home. We have just started to introduce our youngest scholars to technology so we thought it best to wait on sending chromebooks home; but we will communicate with you over the quarantine period to support you and your child. Link teachers have thoughtfully planned this material to support the instruction in the classroom. We are planning to connect virtually. Please look out for more information from us.

The decision to quarantine students has not been made lightly. We know the impact on families is significant, but we also know the pandemic requires us to make this shift in the best interest of the health of our scholars and staff. We reviewed our own protocols and policies, we reached out directly to Dr. Mark Wade, Newark's Director of Health, and we consulted directly with the Newark Department of Health's Infectious Disease Office. We made this decision with their guidance, as well as the CDC guidelines.

Please note that the two positive cases that we have seen this week are not connected to one another. We discussed the nature of the cases with the Newark Department of Health and they are in fact isolated cases. We will continue to monitor all students and staff's medical condition through our daily health check and ask that you share information regarding any COVID-19 symptoms with your children or household members immediately.

We are partnering with the Essex County Department of Health and the NJ Department of Health to coordinate an onsite vaccination site, as well as ongoing testing for those interested. We know that both vaccination of those 12 and older and regular testing will provide added security.

Please contact Ms. Hester at khester@linkschool.org if you have any questions about the instructional program. We will share more information as needed over the coming days.