

MALVERNE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Lorna R. Lewis
Superintendent of Schools

September 14, 2020

Each morning we ask you to complete a questionnaire that provides us with information about the COVID-19 presence in our schools. We ask that this questionnaire be taken seriously as it guides our ability to remain safely open. This morning we had an unusually high number of “red flag” responses in the high school indicating they had been in contact with a person testing positive for the COVID-19 virus. With that level of response, we determined that it was necessary to close the high school today. We are going to assess the situation to determine whether we need additional closures, for this week, and notify you by 5pm today.

We did not have high school classes today as many of the staff members were travelling home, having arrived at school to begin their day. If additional days are needed for closure at the high school, they will be fully virtual, with live period-by-period classes, following your child’s schedule.

You should know that we conducted a thorough investigation yesterday to determine all individuals who were deemed to have been in close contact with our staff member identified as testing positive. Again, the definition of close **contact is being within 6 ft of the infected person for a continuous period of 15 minutes or more.** Simply meeting the infected person does not count as close contact, and certainly should not cause concern if masks are worn. At this time, the only individuals that are required to quarantine are those who came into close contact with the person testing positive, as per Nassau County Department of Health (NCDOH). The areas used by the infected employee have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, as is our practice, and have not been used for 48 hours.

The good news is that all of our HTH staff is back, having tested negative, as a result of the exposure on September 2, 2020 and instruction continues across all three buildings today. Our children are engaged in safe, dynamic learning in our schools and this will continue to be so, no matter the learning platform used.

The health and safety of our community remains our number one priority. The wearing of masks and frequent washing of hands continues to be the most prudent method of containing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we work to make our schools safe for our children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lorna R. Lewis".

Dr. Lorna R. Lewis
Superintendent of Schools