



Marshfield Public Schools

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Dear MPSD Families & Staff,

We are writing to inform you that five members of the Furnace Brook Middle School community have tested positive for COVID-19. Our first responsibility is to keep our students and staff safe. As such, our district health leaders, in accordance with DPH protocols, conducted thorough contact tracing to identify any individuals who may have been in close contact with the affected school member.

A close contact is defined as those who have been within 6 feet of distance of the individual for at least fifteen minutes, in school spaces, on the bus, or at an extracurricular activity, and may include other situations as indicated by local risk assessments, in consultation with the Department of Public Health. Though we cannot provide specific information about anyone who tested positive, please continue to monitor your child for symptoms, and keep your child home if he/she/they shows any symptoms or is not feeling well.

Parents of students and/or staff members who were in close contact with the community members have been notified privately. If you have not been contacted, your child was not a close contact.

All who are deemed to be close contacts should be tested but should not come back to school until they have quarantined for 14 days (or a minimum of 10 days with a negative PCR test result from day 8 or later).

We have been updating our list of positive cases and sharing that information on the district webpage for the past two months and this brings our total to 49 cases in our school district. As we have done with each case, we communicated with our school health leaders, school physician and conferred with officials at the DPH, DESE and at the Marshfield Board of Health to assess our current situation to assess whether or not to close schools or transition from learning models.

In working with local and state health officials, we have determined that the cases in question have been centralized in a grade specific cluster at the FBMS and out of a preponderance of caution, the safest step to take will be to have students and staff in the Grade 6, Viking Cluster work remotely from home starting on Monday, November 30. They will be able to resume in-school activities on Wednesday, December 9. Additional information on this transition will be sent out from Principal Kemmett.

In addition, we have communicated with the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education (DESE) on this matter and contacted their Mobile Rapid Response Unit to see if there is a need for testing in our school community. The following describes minimum conditions, as determined by DESE and DPH, for when a mobile rapid response team may be deployed:

Marshfield Public School District is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. Marshfield Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, sex, sexual orientation, disability, homelessness, or age in programs, activities, or employment.

- Within a 14-day period, if two or more individuals within a single classroom test positive for COVID-19 and transmission/exposure is likely to have occurred in the classroom, a mobile rapid response unit may be deployed for all asymptomatic individuals within that classroom.
- Within a 14-day period, if 3 or more individuals or 3 percent, whichever is greater, of a given grade or cohort test positive for COVID-19 and transmission/exposure likely occurred in the school, a mobile rapid response unit may be deployed for all asymptomatic individuals in that grade or cohort.
- Within a 14-day period, if more than 3 percent of a school tests positive for COVID-19 and transmission/exposure likely occurred in the school, a mobile testing unit may be deployed for the entire school population that is asymptomatic.
- Within a 14-day period, if 2 or more individuals within the same bus test positive COVID-19 and transmission/exposure likely occurred on the bus, a mobile rapid response unit may be deployed for all asymptomatic individuals on that bus.

Based on the information related to these new cases, and upon discussions with DESE and the DPH, it has been determined that the Grade 6 Viking Cluster qualifies for this testing. As such, the Mobile Rapid Response Unit is scheduled to come to the FBMS to administer Covid-19 testing for the students and staff within this cluster on Tuesday, December 1. More specific information on the testing (including times of testing) will be communicated by Principal Kemmett. Attached [here](#) you will find a release form that needs to be filled out prior to this voluntary testing. This release needs to be completed and brought to the testing site in order for testing to be performed.

For more information on COVID-19 symptoms and testing, visit:

[https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?-](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?)

You can also find a map of testing sites at

<https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095febf13>. Please contact us immediately should you or someone in your home begin to show symptoms.

We are committed to continuous communication with and support of our families and staff. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact our Nurse Director, Ms. Jane Landry, at jlandry@mpsd.org or 781.319.3814. If there is additional transmission as a result of this case or a separate case, we will send out another message immediately.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey W. Granatino

Jane Landry

Maureen Kemmett

Superintendent

District Nurse Director

Principal, FBMS