

MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Families and Staff

From: Dr. Meria Joel Carstarphen, Superintendent

Date: March 27, 2020

Subject: Important COVID-19 Updates for APS Families and Stakeholders

We want to make you aware that Atlanta Public Schools (APS) was informed today by a commercial lab that an APS employee tested positive for COVID-19. Because APS has been closed for approximately two weeks, the employee's contact with others at APS was minimal. According to the Fulton County Board of Health (BOH), COVID-19 has now reached widespread community transmission in Georgia, meaning individuals are susceptible to the same level of exposure anywhere in the community at any time. Because of this, public health efforts are shifting to mitigation strategies, such as recommending quarantines and isolation as opposed to devoting time and resources to identifying the source of a COVID-19 infection.

The APS employee who tested positive had very limited contact with others through a volunteer activity at Toomer Elementary School last week. In alignment with guidance from health officials, if you or your child was at Toomer Elementary School last week, we ask that you monitor yourself or your child's health for fever and symptoms of respiratory illness. In the unlikely event that you or your child develops a fever, runny nose, cough and/or shortness of breath, call your healthcare provider immediately. You should inform the healthcare provider that you or your child was possibly exposed to coronavirus before you arrive at the doctor's office. The healthcare provider will determine if testing is needed. Testing is not required for people who do not have any symptoms.

If you or your child experienced a respiratory illness before today and has recovered completely, you do not need to see a healthcare provider. Whitefoord Health Clinic is available at (470) 427-2634 ext. 123 or online at: <https://www.whitefoord.org/covid19>. You can also contact the state of Georgia's COVID-19 hotline at (844) 442-2681.

Further, for your information, there is a contract employee who worked at the Alonzo A. Crim Center for Learning and Leadership (CLL) who tested positive for COVID-19 via a commercial lab. Because of the contract employee's limited exposure to District staff and students, and since we are beyond the 14-day transmission period from the last time the contract employee was at CLL, no additional notification is needed at this time. This case has not yet been verified and investigated by the Fulton County Board of Health, but in the spirit of transparency, we wanted to make you aware that this is our third case.

Health officials have informed us that because APS is closed and because COVID-19 has reached widespread community transmission, no further guidance is necessary. We encourage you to continue to follow the preventative measures recommended by health officials to stop the spread of COVID-19:

- Practice social distancing by avoiding mass gatherings, and maintaining distance (i.e., no close contact with individuals, maintain a distance of more than 6 feet, and if within 6 feet, less than 10 minutes for any interaction) from others when possible.
- Avoid crowded places where close contact with others may occur, such as shopping centers, movie theaters, and stadiums.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Please seek medical attention if you or a family member feels ill or is exhibiting flu-like symptoms.

Your continued safety and well-being is important to APS. As we work through the impacts of COVID-19 in our community, we are committed to providing you with accurate, timely and transparent information as we receive it. Continue to stay up-to-date on the District's response to COVID-19 by visiting <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/coronavirus>.