



Penn-Trafford School District

P.O. Box 530, Harrison City, PA 15636
Phone: 724-744-4496 or 724-744-2121; Fax: 724-744-4016
www.penntrafford.org
Effective, Efficient, Quality Education

October 9, 2020

Parents and Staff,

The Penn-Trafford School District was notified today that a staff member at the High School tested positive for COVID-19. This is in addition to the positive student yesterday which brings the High School total to two cases within a 14 day period which requires the school to close for five days per the Department of Education guidelines. The High School along with all athletic and extracurricular activities will be shut down effective today through Tuesday, October 13th. The school will reopen on Wednesday, October 14th and all activities will resume at that time. Although it is not a Department of Health requirement, the itinerant (shared) teachers will not be permitted to work in other district buildings so that we can monitor them for symptoms. High School students will receive remote instruction during the closure. The principal will email additional information regarding remote instruction.

Contact tracing has been completed at the High School. Unless an individual has been personally contacted by the Department of Health or the School Nurse we can reasonably assure you that they have not been identified as a "close contact" of a positive case and would not need to quarantine. The PA Department of Health defines a "close contact" as an individual who was within six feet of a positive case of COVID-19 for a duration of longer than fifteen consecutive minutes.

We will continue to closely monitor the cases within our district and follow all directions provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. We understand that parents want to know details of the positive COVID-19 individuals but we can not release confidential information due to privacy laws. Please note that while we have an obligation to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of all members of our community, we also have an obligation to protect the privacy of individuals affected by this virus.

It is important for students and staff to administer the [PTSD Symptom Screening Tool](#) every day. If you are symptomatic or may have been in close contact with a positive case you need to stay home and contact the school nurse immediately. Your cooperation with sharing information with our nurses and reporting any positive cases of COVID-19 within your family or close contacts is very important.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew Harris
Superintendent

Matthew F. Harris, D.Ed.
Superintendent
Scott A. Inglese
Assistant Superintendent

Brett N. Lago
Director of Business Affairs/Board Secretary
Gregory N. Karazzia
Director of Student Learning Supports