



Penn-Trafford School District

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www.penntrafford.org
Effective, Efficient, Quality Education

November 15, 2020

Parents and Staff,

Penn Middle school currently has five active COVID-19 cases, two of which were just added this weekend. Four of the five positive individuals were in the school building while they were contagious. Penn Middle School will be closed Monday, November 16 through Wednesday, November 18 and will reopen Thursday, November 19, 2020. All extracurricular activities at Penn Middle School will be shut down during this time. All close contacts have been notified and are quarantined. The principal will send further directions to parents and students regarding online assignments. The difference in school closures between buildings takes into account multiple variables such as spread within the building, contagious individuals in the building, close contacts, probable contacts, staff availability and if school is in a hybrid model. It should be noted that contact tracing has determined none of the positive students contracted the virus while in school. Please see the attached link to see the COVID-19 Case Tracker: <https://www.penntrafford.org/covid19>.

We will be closely monitoring this situation over the next three days to determine if additional closure days are necessary. All information has been communicated with the Pennsylvania Department of Health as they assist us with this process. 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. Only "close contacts" are required to be quarantined. 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. Unless an individual has been personally contacted by the Department of Health or the School Nurse we can reasonably assure you that he/she has not been identified as a "close contact" of a positive case. The only individuals who need to quarantine are those who have been personally contacted by the Department of Health or the School Nurse.

We certainly understand if you are not comfortable sending your child to any of our schools under these circumstances. You always have the option to choose remote instruction during this time. Please contact your principal if you wish to exercise this option.

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