

PAWLING CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Kim Fontana
Superintendent of Schools



Marianne Heslin
Assistant Superintendent for Finance
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Small Size ~ Diverse Opportunities

November 5, 2020

Dear Pawling Families and Staff,

This evening, November 5, 2020, the District is working with the Dutchess County Department of Health and we have confirmed that a member of our Pawling Middle School community has tested positive for COVID-19. Due to federal health and privacy laws, no further information about the individual can be disclosed. As you know, we have been preparing for this event for many months and have excellent collaboration with the health department as well as internal protocols. We continue to follow these protocols consistently to prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff.

In order to complete contact tracing for all students and staff, tomorrow, November 6, 2020 will be a remote learning day for Pawling Middle School students only. We already have confirmed that no high school or elementary students or staff are potential contacts. For this reason, Pawling Elementary and Pawling High School students will have their regularly scheduled day tomorrow. Middle School staff and families will receive a separate communication with details about their remote learning day from Ms. Gleason, the Middle School Principal. Tomorrow, any middle school students who would like to arrange for meals should call the food service director, Lauren Collica, at 845-855-4627. Meals will be distributed from our high school between 10am and 12pm.

Any students and staff who were exposed to the individual are being contacted separately by a school official tonight or tomorrow. Those exposed (who were within 6 feet for more than 10 minutes) will be mandated to quarantine for 14 days from the date of their last exposure. Additionally, we recommend that these individuals be tested for COVID-19 as a precaution. Persons who have been exposed will also receive a call from a New York State Contact Tracer. This call can take up to a week to receive. Please provide the contact tracer with the information they need. All such information will be kept confidential by the school, the Dutchess County Department of Health, and the New York State Department of Health. Providing this information, helps protect everyone. A list of testing sites can be found on the Dutchess County Health Website. www.DutchessNY.gov/CoronavirusTesting You may also visit the "New York State Find a Test Site Near You" web page: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you> Once you enter a zip code, a list/map view of the nearest test sites will become available.

I know that our District having its first COVID-19 case this school year is concerning news, perhaps especially because we have had such remarkable good fortune. Nevertheless, I ask you to please respect the privacy of this individual and others who may need to quarantine during this difficult time. Please do not speculate as to their identity.

Please know that we are doing everything we can to maintain a healthy, safe school environment and that we continue to have good support and collaboration from the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health as we make decisions regarding our school. I anticipate that no further communication will be needed regarding this situation, and that school will resume as normal on Monday for Pawling Middle School as well as continue for the rest of our schools. Should the situation change, we will update you promptly.

I wish you and your family good health and I continue to thank you for your support and for your commitment to working to ensure good health for the whole community.

Very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kim Fontana". The signature is written in a cursive style.

