

# Shrewsbury Borough School

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and your family healthy during these difficult times.

Earlier today I received information from three employees of the district who have all tested positive for COVID-19. While it is not clear how these staff members contracted the coronavirus, we have since learned that employees began feeling symptoms at varying dates starting on March 8, 2020. When these employees began to experience symptoms, they stayed home. I can tell you that these employees are not classroom teachers or instructional staff, and have little to no contact with students and the majority of our staff.

Since early March, we have been working closely with the Monmouth County Health Commission #1 to address the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on SBS. During this time, we have followed all of the county, state, and federal guidelines available to us to ensure the safety of our entire school community. We will continue to work with the Mayor's office, our Borough administration, and our Office of Emergency Management.

The MCRHC#1 has informed us that individuals are most susceptible to the coronavirus if they spend ten minutes or more within six feet of an infectious individual. They have also indicated that individuals are contagious for up to three days before the typical flu-like symptoms (i.e fever, sore throat, cough and runny nose) are present. I have reviewed with the Monmouth County Health officials the job responsibilities of the affected staff, and they advised it seems unlikely that any of our students were in contact with these employees at all. However, we do know that COVID-19 is extremely contagious so this news is concerning. As a reminder, the last day for students was Thursday, March 12 and the last day for our faculty and instructional aides was Friday, March 13, 2020. Further complicating this situation is the fact that the state-wide reporting system for the coronavirus has been frustratingly slow so we act on information as soon as it becomes available to us.

The building remains closed for all students and employees for the foreseeable future.

As always, if you think that you or a family member might be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, you should contact your physician or health care provider for their medical assistance.

Limiting the impact of COVID-19 will require a shared response from everyone. We will continue to provide updates and information. Families should continue to consult these resources for information and advice:

- [NJ Department of Health](#)
- [CDC](#)
- Monmouth County Regional Health Commission
- NJDOH COVID-19 Hotline: 1-800-222-1222
- Text NJCOVID to 898-211

As a reminder, please use these simple but best practices to minimize the spread of germs in your house and between your family members:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw the tissue in the trash.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles).

While young people are not in a “high risk” group for COVID 19, they should refrain from congregating outside of school. Parents and students should follow the CDC guidelines, which emphasize “social distancing,” as a means to prevent further contact with people who could be infected or who could infect you or your family members. We ask that you do not organize play dates for your children. These heightened measures are important to contain the spread of COVID-19 in our local community and beyond. Closing schools will only have the desired impact if everyone follows through on actions to slow the spread of COVID 19.

Stay healthy and safe!

Sincerely,

Brent MacConnell  
Superintendent