

# Shrewsbury Borough School

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SUPERINTENDENT

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March 20, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Earlier this afternoon I received information from an employee of the district who has tested positive for COVID 19. While it is not clear how this staff member contracted the coronavirus, we do know that the employee began feeling symptoms on Monday, March 16, 2020.

According to the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission No.1, other 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, so it is unlikely that any of our students were in contact with this employee at a time when they were contagious as the last day for students was Thursday, March 12th.

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.

I have contacted the Monmouth County Health Commission for their assistance and we will be working closely with their team to address any further health concerns that employees of the district might have since learning this information.

While I know that this information may be concerning to our local community, it is important that you know that the school will be closed until further notice. I expect that we will be closed for the next three weeks and that we will reevaluate when we can open the building to students, parents, and employees at that point.

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