

Dear D73 Parents, Students and Staff:

We have been notified that one of our Elementary North staff members tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19) on Saturday, March 21. The staff member attended school the week of March 9 and developed symptoms the week of March 16, after the statewide school closures began. District 73 continues to take the COVID-19 situation very seriously. We are fortunate to partner with the experts at the Lake County Health Department during this uncertain time, and out of an abundance of caution will continue to follow their lead and directives.

We understand your desire to know who the individual is so that you can assess your or your student's possibility of exposure. We are providing as much information as we are able to share with you. Federal privacy laws prevent District administration from sharing the name or other specifics about the staff member.

Updates: At this juncture, we should not be surprised when presumed positive or positive test results are identified within our community. We assume this will continue to happen, and this is a major reason why schools in Illinois are currently closed and why the Governor issued a "Stay at Home" order on Friday. We would like to remind everyone **at every age** that staying home and social distancing is truly important and must be taken seriously in order to prevent further spread of the virus. Going forward, to keep informed about cases in our county, please sign up for updates from the Lake County Health Department at <http://bit.ly/lccovid-19>.

We ask that everyone in the D73 school community remain vigilant and continue to wash your hands, cough into your elbow and maintain a distance of six feet whenever possible.

The Lake County Health Department advises the following:

- If you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness that continue to worsen, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider.
- Do not walk into a healthcare facility, urgent care clinic, or hospital before calling. Discuss your symptoms with your doctor. If your doctor believes that you need to be tested for COVID-19, your doctor can refer you to a testing site.

If you have any COVID-19 questions, call the Illinois COVID-19 hotline at (800) 889-3931 or email dph.sick@illinois.gov.

Regards,

Peter Hannigan, Ed.D.
Superintendent