



Pyne Arts Magnet School
145 Boylston Street
Lowell, MA 01852

November 2, 2020

Dear parents, caregivers, guardians, and staff,

I am writing to inform you that a member of our school community has tested positive for COVID-19. Our first responsibility is to keep our students and staff safe. We have been planning for this scenario during our reopening planning process and have a comprehensive plan in place to sanitize the school, inform families whose students were at risk of exposure or in close contact, and support the affected family as they navigate this stressful experience.

Our students and staff have been closely adhering to the safety protocols including mask-wearing, hand washing, and physical distancing. We are grateful to our families for their continued efforts to keep students home at the first sign of symptoms. These measures, taken in combination, greatly reduce the risk of additional transmission.

We cannot provide specific information about the community member who tested positive. However, unless you are notified by the local Health Department, you are not considered a close contact of the affected school community member (defined as being within 6 feet of the person for at least 15 minutes). The school community member who tested positive was last in contact with community members on **Thursday, October 29, 2020**. Please continue to monitor your child for symptoms, and keep your child home if he/she/they show any symptoms or is not feeling well.

Parents of students who were in close contact with the community member will be notified privately. All close contacts should be tested but must self-quarantine for 14 days after the last exposure to the person who tested positive, regardless of the test result. We are also following all Department of Health protocols, including collaborating with our local Board of Health to complete contact tracing. Additionally, we are asking those parents whose students are tested for COVID-19 to please report the results to the school nurse. We are working hard to understand the impact of the virus on our school community and this information is a critical piece of that puzzle.

To further prevent transmission of the virus to other staff and students, we have sanitized the school with a focus on those areas frequented by the community member that tested positive. We will continue to be vigilant in adhering to all of the protocols that have been put in place in an effort to continue in-person learning. For more information on COVID-19 symptoms and testing, visit: [https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?-](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?).

You can also find a map of testing sites at:

<https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095febf13>. Please contact us immediately should you or someone in your home begin to show symptoms.

We are committed to continuous communication with and support of our families. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact me at 978-937-7639 and email wcrocker-roberge@lowell.k12.ma.us. If there is additional transmission as a result of this case or a separate case, we will send out another message immediately. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Wendy Crocker-Roberge
Principal