

2021-2022 Protocol for information on a positive COVID case

In the event the school district administration is made aware of a positive case of COVID-19 in our school, the Principal, Nurse and/ or the Superintendent will promptly notify our District Medical Advisor and the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH) public health nurse or assigned staff of such a case.

The Northeast District Department of Health will work with our school nurse to determine who within our school community has had “close contact” with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. NDDH will work with the Eastford School System and the CT Department of Health to complete contact tracing. The Eastford School District administration will assist with these efforts and any further contact tracing upon the request from the Northeast District Department of Health. The CDC defines “close contact” as exposure within three feet in a classroom setting and six feet for other instances for at least fifteen minutes with a person identified as testing positive for COVID-19.

In determining how to communicate possible exposure to the school community, the Eastford School District administration will be required to comply with all applicable laws and regulations regarding student and employee confidentiality and privacy. For example, with respect to students, the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and its implementing regulations generally prevent us from publicly sharing personally identifiable information derived from student education records, as well as information that would allow a reasonable person in the school community to identify a particular student even if the student’s name is not shared. With respect to employees, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has stated that employers may notify those who may have come into contact with an employee who has tested positive for COVID-19; however, such notification does not require disclosing the employee’s name and employers generally must not reveal the employee’s identity. In light of these confidentiality and privacy protections and our related legal obligations, as well as the need to protect the health and safety of the school community, school administrators must determine, on a case-by-case basis, the appropriate means of notifying the school community of possible exposure to COVID-19 in any given situation.