

A message from WILMINGTON CMTY UNIT SD 209-U

ATTENTION PARENTS & STUDENTS –

Unfortunately, we needed to inform everyone this evening that we were just notified of another positive COVID test result for one of our support staff members at Wilmington High School. We do NOT believe this was connected to the teacher who recently tested positive. It has also been determined that this employee was NOT in 'close contact' with any students.

However, we have determined that this staff member was in 'close contact' with a few other adults. These staff members will self-quarantine for a period of 14 days. 'Close contact' is defined by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to mean spending more than 15 minutes within 6 feet of an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 or otherwise exhibited symptoms of COVID-19 within 48 hours of the person's onset of symptoms. And out of precaution, the close contacts will also be pursuing COVID testing.

Thankfully, the support staff member who has tested positive is asymptomatic, feeling healthy & well at home; and will continue following all recommendations of the physician and Will County Health Department / IDPH. This staff member and any Close Contact will not return to work until successfully meeting all health-related and self-quarantine requirements.

As a result of this situation, we have decided to exercise an abundance of caution and suspend all Food Services (both breakfast and lunch) for tomorrow, Friday October 22. **We will utilize tomorrow afternoon for a ½ day of Remote Learning Planning activities for staff, while students will be dismissed early from school.** Dismissal times will be as follows:

- 11:00 - Bruning
- 11:15 - WHS
- 11:20 - WMS & SIS

Please know that our school buildings, all classrooms, hallways, entryways, gyms and other spaces, are carefully cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day. **Our facilities are clean and safe for students to attend classes tomorrow morning as usual in each of our four schools.** Tomorrow afternoon will be helpful for staff for future planning, while also allowing us time to determine next steps to safely reopen each of our kitchens.

In continuing to move forward, please be aware that individual students/parents and staff members will be contacted directly by a school district nurse or administrator and/or an official from the Will County Health Department if they are ever identified as a 'close contact' for a confirmed COVID case.

As always, all staff and students should continue to self-monitor each and every morning for any potentially COVID-related symptoms or elevated body temperatures. Anyone experiencing symptoms or elevated temps should STAY HOME and communicate as soon as possible with the appropriate school nurse, building principal or immediate supervisor.

I apologize for any inconvenience; but we feel it is important to proceed with extra caution, when necessary, as we continue to work through this challenging school year.

Take care,

Matt Swick

Superintendent of Schools

Wilmington School District 209u

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Superintendent of Schools

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