

WHITEHALL CENTRAL SCHOOL

Dear Whitehall Community,

March 8, 2021

The district learned this afternoon, Monday March 8, 2021 that an individual in the Whitehall Elementary School is Presumed-Positive for COVID-19. This individual was last in the building Thursday March 4, 2021.

I wish to reiterate what "Presumed Positive" means. The State of New York requires that in the event an individual is showing symptoms of COVID and must be sent home from school, that individual must consult with a physician to have a COVID test or obtain an alternate diagnosis from the Physician within 48 hours of symptom onset. In the event that the individual fails or refuses to see a physician for testing or alternate diagnosis, they are then considered "Presumed Positive" and the county treats the case as they would a positive case. This results in the quarantine of those individuals with whom the "presumed positive" individual had contact.

We have worked with the county and provided a contact tracing list. Our staff will be reaching out to the impacted families in advance of the State Contact Tracers reaching out to those impacted. It will be important to answer your phone in the event that you receive a call from Washington County or NY Contact Tracers in the next 48 hours.

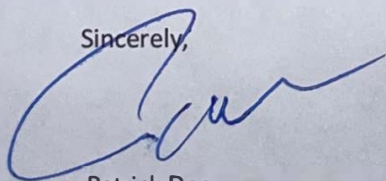
School will proceed as normal tomorrow, March 9, 2021 as we have been able to address both contact tracing as well as staffing needs. Should anything change, I will be in touch as soon as possible.

Please note that the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other privacy laws restrict us from disclosing or confirming any personally identifiable information. We cannot identify anyone who has tested positive.

Please remember that our community must continue to work together to ensure overall public health. Following guidelines regarding masks, social gatherings and social distancing is important both inside and outside of school buildings. If your child shows any possible symptoms, please be certain to seek the advice of your family physician. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to keeping everyone safe.

Any additional questions, including information about testing procedures, can be directed to Washington County Public Health Services at 518-746-2400.

Sincerely,



Patrick Dee
Superintendent of Schools