

MARCH 4, 2021. (6:30PM)

DEAR WHITEHALL COMMUNITY,

GOOD EVENING, I AM PROVIDING AN UPDATE TO THE MESSAGE THAT WAS DELIVERED THIS AFTERNOON AT APPROXIMATELY 3:45. A FEW MOMENTS AGO I LEARNED THAT THERE WAS AN INDIVIDUAL IN THE JR. SR. HIGH SCHOOL TODAY (MARCH 4) THAT TESTED POSITIVE FOR COVID THIS EVENING.

THE DISTRICT IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH WASHINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES TO PERFORM CONTACT TRACING. THERE ARE NUMEROUS INDIVIDUALS THAT WERE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE POSITIVE CASE THROUGHOUT THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS THAT WILL BE UNDER QUARANTINE BY THE WASHINGTON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH THROUGH MARCH 14. IT WILL BE IMPORTANT TO ANSWER YOUR CALL IN THE EVENT THAT YOU RECEIVE A CALL FROM NEW YORK STATE CONTACT TRACERS OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS. OUR STAFF WILL BEGIN MAKING PRELIMINARY CALLS TO IMPACTED FAMILIES BEGINNING TOMORROW MORNING MARCH 5TH.

AS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE NUMBER OF STAFF AND STUDENT THAT WILL BE REQUIRED TO QUARANTINE THROUGH THE 14 TH OF MARCH, THE JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH WILL NEED TO CLOSE TO IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION UNTIL MARCH 15TH. THERE WILL BE NO IN PERSON INSTRUCTION IN THE JUNIOR HIGH OR IN THE HIGH SCHOOL WIFI ROOM UNTIL MARCH 15TH. ALL STUDENTS WILL HOWEVER BE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN ONLINE LEARNING DURING THIS TIME.

TO REITERATE MY EARLIER MESSAGE, ALL ELEMENTARY STUDENTS WILL BE LEARNING ONLINE TOMORROW ONLY AS A RESULT OF THE POSITIVE CASE IN THE ELEMENTARY BUILDING THAT WE LEARNED OF THIS AFTERNOON. ELEMENTARY STUDENTS WILL STILL BE EXPECTED TO LOG-IN OR FOLLOW THE PLANS PREVIOUSLY SET BY THEIR TEACHERS FOR INSTRUCTION TOMORROW. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE ELEMENTARY BUILDING WILL BE OPEN FOR INSTRUCTION ON MONDAY MARCH 8TH.

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