

September 7, 2021

Dear Bethel Elementary School Families and Colleagues:

This communication comes to inform you that we received notification on today, Tuesday, September 7, 2021, that a student has tested positive for COVID-19. This student was tested on Wednesday, September 1, 2021. Contact tracing has been completed and close contacts were identified. All close contacts have been made aware and will enter quarantine as deemed appropriate per CDC/VDH guidelines.

Effective Tuesday, September 7, 2021, **All** future COVID-19 cases will be documented on the COVID-19 dashboard located on the GCPS homepage (<https://gets.gc.k12.va.us/>). In addition, a COVID-19 notification letter will only be sent in cases that involve exposure or when close contacts can be identified.

In addition and as a reminder:

- The contagious period begins two days before the start of symptoms. If a person does not have symptoms, the contagious period starts two days before the date of the positive test.
- A close contact is defined as a person who has been within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative period of 15 minutes or more within a 24 hour period starting two days before the onset of symptoms or diagnosis.
- The definition of close contact includes an exception for K-12 settings for the purposes of case investigation and contact tracing. In indoor K-12 classroom settings, a student who is within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student is not considered a close contact as long as both students wore well-fitting masks and were wearing masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in indoor K-12 classroom settings.

Students, Families, and Colleagues should continue to monitor their symptoms and complete the daily COVID screening.

Symptoms include:	Cough	Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
	Chills	Muscle pain
	Sore throat	New loss of, or change in taste or smell
	Diarrhea	Congestion or runny nose
	Nausea	Vomiting
	Fever (temperature greater than 100.4, or when one feels warm to the touch or gives a history of feeling feverish)	

We urge all students, families, and colleagues to take the following steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Monitor closely for signs of illness. If you or your child are sick or showing any symptoms, please stay home. School policies are flexible to accommodate students who need to stay home due to illness, but be sure to notify the school if your child will be out sick for the day.
- Practice social distancing by maintaining at least 6 feet of distance between yourself and people outside your household
- Wear a cloth face mask over the mouth and nose to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is especially important after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If handwashing is not available, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with your arm.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kersmarki  
Bethel Elementary School Principal  
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Director of Nursing  
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