

Dear BPS families,

You may already be aware of confirmed positive test results for COVID-19 here in our school communities. Yesterday, messages went out to the Seaholm, Berkshire, Pierce and BCS communities sharing information on confirmed positive test results of a staff member at Seaholm and Berkshire, and two students, one from Pierce and one from BCS, displaying symptoms consistent with COVID-19. As we continue to keep families and the community informed during this health crisis, we wanted to share with the greater community. Please note that *HIPAA does not allow us to identify the individuals*, but our thoughts are with them at this time.

We are working with the Oakland County Health Division in these instances to determine exposure and action steps our communities need to take. At this time, all action steps are the same, whether individuals have been exposed or not. Those action steps are listed at the bottom of this message.

As testing increases, these cases will continue to grow in our community. With positive tests coming from individuals that have not traveled outside of Oakland County, we know that COVID-19 is in our community, not limited to schools, grocery stores, churches or any other isolated location. It is imperative that all in our community follow the guidelines below and heed the [Governor's message to stay home unless you are deemed part of the essential workforce](#). These actions will help protect those essential workers and those on the front lines caring for our families and neighbors.

We know this is unsettling. We encourage anyone with concerns or questions to contact the Oakland County Health Division at (248) 858-1280, email [noc@oakgov.com](mailto:noc@oakgov.com) or [health@oakgov.com](mailto:health@oakgov.com) or visit <https://www.oakgov.com/health>.

Actions to prevent the spread of COVID-19

If you **[experience symptoms such as the following, but not limited to, coughing, fever and shortness of breath, contact your doctor immediately.](#)**

There are things we can do as a community to limit the spread of COVID-19 and help keep those most vulnerable safer. *If you think you are sick or someone you care for is sick, visit the [CDC website for directions on diagnosis and care](#).* You can also visit the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services website](#) for details around COVID-19, including information on [Community Mitigation Strategies](#). [Practice social distancing when you can, and review and exercise the prevention methods below and in the linked PDF.](#)

The best prevention for COVID-19, and any other virus, such as the cold or flu, is to:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid handshakes
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.

- If you are sick, please stay home and avoid contact with others.
- Keep a distance of 6 feet from your peers and practice social distancing.

Additionally, families and individuals at home can:

- Learn about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. Symptoms include fever, cough, and difficulty breathing.
- If you have respiratory symptoms, **STAY HOME WHEN YOU ARE SICK**. Call your health care provider's office in advance of your visit.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, like doorknobs, keyboards, cell phones, and light switches.
- Communicate and reinforce best practices for washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Be prepared if there is COVID-19 in your household or a disruption of daily activities in your community. For example, maintain a supply of medications, food, and other essentials in your house. Consider alternative shopping options such as curbside pickups or online deliveries.
- Access services as much as possible online or by phone.

Sincerely,

Anne Cron

Director of Communications and Family Engagement  
Birmingham Public Schools