



Dear Parents/Guardians, Staff, and Community:

We want to inform you that we were recently notified that two households connected to our school district had traveled to a high-risk country and therefore were open to possible exposure to COVID-19. These students are in Schalmont High School and Jefferson Elementary. Students in both households agreed to a voluntary quarantine at home at the school's request.

At this time none of the students in either household have shown **any signs** of the COVID-19 virus and are asymptomatic and healthy. The measure of quarantine was taken as a precautionary step given that the household had traveled to one of the known areas that are high-risk.

The district has been in direct communication with local health department officials regarding the quarantine. We will be monitoring the situation and working with health officials to determine whether there is a need for any additional measures or steps to be taken. If this becomes necessary, we will immediately notify parents and guardians so that the necessary arrangements can be made to care for children.

While these households voluntarily submitted to self-quarantine, we want you to be aware that **as of today's date, the NYS Department of Health has now made quarantine a mandatory measure for any individual that has traveled to a known high-risk exposure area. Because of this, it is very important that anyone; staff, student or parent who travels to a high-risk country notify the school district immediately prior to re-entering the school so we may assess the situation.**

The High School, Middle, and Elementary schools are all currently undergoing an increased cleaning and sanitation process to prevent any spread within the school district. We are also adding increased sanitation stations for handwashing and signage on appropriate washing practices.

Exposure to COVID-19 can occur from any person-to-person contact and is not limited to a particular race or ethnicity. For now, the most important thing you can do to protect yourself and your family is to follow the standard preventive practices for influenza.

There are a number of steps that can minimize the spread of all respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, according to the New York State Department of Health:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Heavily soiled hands should be

washed.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

We will continue to monitor this situation and will notify families immediately of any interruptions to the school schedule. We appreciate your patience and cooperation, as we know this is a serious matter of great concern to many of our families. Please contact the superintendent's office if you have any questions. Thank you.