

Town of Cornwall



Apart Together

Coronavirus / Covid-19 Update, Vol. 29 September 3, 2020

Hello Friends,

Two days ago, I was informed by our new school principal, May Kay Ravenola, that a staff member at C.C.S. had tested positive for Covid-19. The following letter had been sent out to inform parents, staff, and the community of what is happening.

TO: All Cornwall Consolidated School Parents
FROM: Mary Kay Ravenola
DATE: August 31, 2020
RE: Positive COVID Case

The purpose of this letter is to notify all CCS parents that a **staff member that works at Cornwall Consolidated School has tested positive** for COVID-19. Upon receiving this information, I contacted Lisa Carter, who then reported the case to the Torrington Area Health District (TAHD). A TAHD staff member immediately spoke to the CCS staff member and determined that there was direct contact (contact less than 6 feet for 15 minutes or more) with three other staff members during lunch. For all other meetings, the teachers were outside, more than six feet apart and wearing masks.

The CCS staff member who tested positive will be at home in isolation until cleared to return to work. The three staff members who had direct contact will quarantine at home and monitor symptoms for fourteen days from the date of contact.

Since this is a week of professional learning for the teachers; no students are present in the school.

In view of this outcome we are safe to continue our professional learning schedule with the rest of the staff as planned for this week and our school will open to students on September 8th as scheduled. I am arranging for substitute teachers to cover classes while the staff members are out of the building.

Please note that the number of direct contacts with this staff member was mitigated due to a number of factors including:

- our staff meetings were held outside
- we remained separated by six feet or more
- we all wore our face masks

While we may not be able to be outside all of the time, our staff knows that it is important for us to continue to be vigilant about physical distancing and for everyone to wear face masks. This is the way for us to stay safe and healthy and to keep our schools open.

If you have any questions or concerns about this information, please do not hesitate to contact me. We will continue to do everything we can to keep everyone safe. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation during this unprecedented time.

The careful protocols developed with the health department and school administrators were immediately put to use.

This is not what any of us wanted to happen right before the start of school. I am impressed, however, with the effective and calm response of those people entrusted to run our remarkable Cornwall Consolidated School. Continuity of education is so important currently, as our kids need to be with their peers under safe conditions. Also, the present shows the need for students to be taught to value science, health, rational thought and empathy towards others.

I plan to be at C.C.S. on Tuesday morning Sept. 8 to help welcome the students and assure parents and staff that the Town is there for support during this challenging time.

Having a positive Covid-19 test result so close to home should be a reminder to all of us that Covid is still here, and we all must be vigilant to stop its spread. Dr. Anthony Fauci recently listed actions we can do to avoid Covid. <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/dr-fauci-outlines-5-ways-blunt-covid-19-pandemic-s-resurgence> and <https://bgr.com/2020/08/06/coronavirus-update-fauci-risky-activities-bars-restaurants/>

Heather Dinneen, Social Service Agent, reports the food pantry is getting somewhat low on some items:

Heather's Wish List for this week is:

Canned Corn	Rice - white and brown	Cereal
Canned tomatoes (all except diced and tomato sauce)	Marina sauce	Kid's Snacks and juice boxes
Canned vegetable soups	Dish soap and Dishwasher Detergent	Cake and Brownie mix
Peanut butter	Laundry detergent	Cooking oil

Donated items (including surplus garden produce) can also be sent to The UCC Church, 10 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall, CT 06753.

Again, I want to reassure residents that the Town continues to address Covid-19 with a multi-department work group that meets weekly. Please stay safe. Thank you for helping your neighbors.

Sincerely,

Gordon Ridgway
First Selectman
Town of Cornwall, CT

P.S.: Health officials are asking people to get their flu shots early this year.