

# Marcellus Central Schools

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December 5, 2020

Dear Marcellus DMS Parents and Guardians:

On Friday afternoon, the Marcellus School District was made aware that a DMS student has tested positive for COVID-19. We were able to complete all of our internal contact tracing duties by Saturday Morning and send that information to the Onondaga County Health Department. They will be completing their work over the course of the next several days.

We were able to contact families of all students believed to be in “close contact” with the infected individual to alert them that their child will likely be quarantined. This will impact the A cohort of a class of students and so we also contacted families of students in the B cohort of the affected class. While none of those students were considered close contacts, we wanted to inform them of the temporary absence of the teacher. If you were not contacted regarding a need for your child to quarantine, there is no need for concern. We do not believe that this situation will necessitate the closure of DMS but rather having one of our cohort classes function virtually during this period of quarantine. At this time we believe that approximately one staff member and 18 students will be impacted. In this situation, the teacher of the quarantined cohort will make contact with impacted families and establish a plan and schedule for virtual learning to occur immediately. Families of quarantined students will hear from the health department official contact tracers at some point over the course of the week due to the fact that the number of cases has risen significantly and they are likely running behind in making their calls.

In addition to following the recommendations of the Onondaga County Health Department, we will continue to deep clean and sanitize our school buildings, as we have done each day, while also following all safety procedures and protocols. The student who tested positive, and any other students/faculty/staff who were considered to be in “close contact”, will not return to school until the Health Department provides clearance for them to do so.

Due to legal considerations, we cannot provide any additional information to you about the identity of the student who tested positive. We ask that you continue to encourage your children to practice good hand-washing hygiene, wear face masks in the proper manner, and practice social distancing.

If you or a family member start to exhibit symptoms of the virus (fever, shortness of breath, vomiting, diarrhea and/or coughing, for example), please reach out to your physician and inform your child’s school nurse. If you do not have a physician, you can contact the Upstate Medical hotline at 315-464-3979. If you would like further information on COVID-19, please go to this Onondaga County website, [ongov.net/health](http://ongov.net/health), and click on the COVID-19 link.

If there are further updates, we will communicate them directly with you using school messenger, and the district website. Our students’ safety is our highest priority. We appreciate your support as we work through this challenging situation together.

Sincerely,

*Michelle L. Brantner*

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Superintendent