



Kenilworth Public Schools  
Kyle C. Arlington  
Superintendent of Schools

September 4, 2020

Dear School Community:

There have been questions about what Kenilworth Public Schools would do if someone who has been in our buildings tested positive for COVID-19. While we certainly prepared to reduce that risk in numerous ways, we know that people interact with others outside of school. Students and staff members will help each other by wearing face coverings (to limit risk even when there are no symptoms or positive test); by maintaining physical distance to further reduce risk, and by continual cleansing of hands and touchpoints.

In the case of a positive test, we will rely on public health officials to guide our response. The NJ Department of Health provided a [19-page document specifically for school settings](#). We will summarize some of the “if-then” scenarios here, and point school community members toward that guidance for more information.

**Good info for understanding this chart:**

- The CDC defines “close contact” as being within 6 feet of a COVID-positive person for at least 15 minutes starting from 2 days before the onset of symptoms (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to the test that resulted in a positive diagnosis), through the time that the patient was isolated from interaction.
- The district may consider a temporary (2 to 5 days) closure of a school if a student or staff member was in the building while they were potentially infectious, and later tested positive for COVID-19. A short-term closure would allow time for local health officials to perform contact tracing and to gain a better understanding of the potential impact on the school community.
- Not all decisions are as clear as “if this happens, then this is the response.” Kenilworth will work with the borough’s Health Department to determine exact steps based on several factors.
- Some of those factors are part of the state’s COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix. Recognizing that the virus may impact certain areas of the state differently, NJ DOH will use a set of data to characterize a region’s risk as low, moderate, high, or very high. In those [regular reports](#), Kenilworth is part of the Central East region.

If we need to notify the school community of a positive case, that information will be provided as quickly as we can, and in a way that protects the privacy of the individual. Parents and staff members should not expect to know a name, a classroom or cohort, or even a school in connection with a positive case.

## Potential Responses to Confirmed COVID-19 Case(s)

Scenario	Response
One confirmed case within the Kenilworth school community	Students and staff who had close contact with the confirmed case will work remotely for 14 days. School would remain open, pending guidance from public health officials.
Two or more cases in the same classroom and same cohort	Students and staff who had close contact with the confirmed case will work remotely for 14 days. School would remain open, pending guidance from public health officials. Their investigation may determine that the entire classroom-cohort was exposed.
Two or more cases within 14 days, but are clearly linked to an exposure that is unrelated to the school setting, and are unlikely to be a source of exposure to the larger school community (e.g. in the same household, exposed at the same event outside of school)	Students and staff who had close contact with the confirmed case will work remotely for 14 days. School would remain open, pending guidance from public health officials.
Two or more cases within 14 days, linked together by some activity in school, but who are in different classrooms and/or different cohorts	Guidance from public health officials will help determine if a school closure is an appropriate response.
A significant community outbreak (e.g. large event or large local employer), is impacting multiple staff, students and families in the school community.	Guidance from public health officials will help determine if a 14-day school closure is an appropriate response.
Two or more cases within 14 days involving multiple classrooms/cohorts and a clear connection between cases, or to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 that cannot be easily identified	School closes for 14 days.
Very high risk of community transmission, based on <a href="#">the state's COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix</a>	School closes until COVID-19 transmission decreases.

This guidance is an important decision-making tool as we responsibly balance health and safety with the continuity of our students' educational and social experiences.

Sincerely,



Kyle C. Arlington  
Superintendent of Schools