

December 22, 2020

Dear 35M @ Beacon Community:

The health and safety of our students and staff, and everyone in the DOE family across the city, is our top priority. As you are likely aware, our school community recently had a confirmed case of COVID-19. Working with the City's Situation Room, we quickly took all appropriate action and followed rigorous protocols developed by the NYC Test + Trace Corps, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health), and the New York City Department of Education (DOE).

Out of an abundance of caution, the following steps were taken to safeguard the health of our school community:

- Anyone with a positive COVID-19 test has been instructed to not return to the school, and will be safely separated, until they are no longer infectious. In order to protect the privacy of any individual who has tested positive, we cannot share additional details about the case.
- The NYC Test + Trace Corps and NYC Health completed their investigation to identify and notify close contacts in the building, who are quarantining for 14 days since the last contact with a person who tested positive. 12/30/20 is the last day of the quarantine period.

This case is now closed, and all areas of our building are determined to be safe for students and staff. However, due to the number of staff identified during the investigation as "close contacts" and who are now quarantining at home, all teaching and learning will be fully remote on 12/23/20. As the quarantine period for affected staff extends through 12/30/20, we will make every effort to safely return to in-person instruction on 1/4/21, and stay in communication with you.

While New Yorkers have done an outstanding job fighting the virus, leading to extremely low infection rates citywide, COVID-19 is still active in our city, state, and our country. There will be cases of COVID-19 this school year; we know this, and all of our protocols have been in service of fighting this virus. Our job is to swiftly and effectively handle any cases that appear and be transparent every step of the way. That is what we are doing today.

We all need to continue to act to protect ourselves, our loved ones, and our schools. All of us must remember to follow these important "Core Four" actions to prevent COVID-19 transmission:

- Stay home if sick: Monitor your and your child’s health and stay home if you are sick or keep them home if they are sick, except for getting essential medical care (including COVID-19 testing) and other essential needs.
- Physical distancing: Stay at least 6 feet away from people who are not members of your household.
- Wear a face covering: Protect those around you. Wearing a face covering helps reduce the spread of COVID-19, especially if you are sick and don’t have symptoms. For more information about face coverings, visit [nyc.gov/health/coronavirus](https://nyc.gov/health/coronavirus) and look for “FAQ About Face Coverings.”
- Practice healthy hand hygiene: Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available; clean frequently touched surfaces regularly; avoid touching your face with unwashed hands; and cover your cough or sneeze with your arm, not your hands.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions. Thank you for your cooperation. Health and safety will always come first in New York City public schools, and in our school community.

Sincerely,

Marta Barnett, Principal