

Date: 8/26/20

Dear O'Connell School Community,

I am writing to you today to inform you that a member of our O'Connell faculty has tested positive for COVID-19. As soon as the district was made aware of this confirmed diagnosis, EHPS notified the East Hartford Department of Public Health (EHDPH) to assess the risk of transmission within the school and the entire district. Based on the guidance provided by the EHDPH, the district will be taking the following steps to keep our community safe.

- *Contact Tracing:* Working collaboratively, the local Department of Public Health will be engaging in reaching out to all identified contacts of the individual who tested positive.
- *Closure/Deep Cleaning:* At this point the district has made the decision to close O'Connell School for staff participating in professional development for 2 days (August 27-28th). During this period, the Facilities staff will engage in deep cleaning/disinfecting the entire school with a special emphasis on areas that the individual testing positive is known to have accessed. If additional time is needed for contact tracing, or cleaning, EHPS will extend the closure basis on a daily/multi-day basis.
- *Continuity of Education/ReOpening School:* At this time, the district will ReOpen O'Connell School for all students remotely as originally designed in our plans for August 31, 2020.

We recognize the concern and fear that an announcement like this can create for you, your family and our community. As we continue to work hard to keep our community safe, this process is a part of making sure we keep you and our community safe. Please reach out to our school administration or support staff if we can be of assistance.

Thank you, as always, for your support and partnership as we work to keep our kids, faculty and community safe.



Nathan Quesnel
Superintendent of Schools
East Hartford Public Schools