



The School District of Jenkintown  
West and Highland Avenue  
Jenkintown, PA 19046-2698

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Superintendent  
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October 22, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Students,

We were notified that a staff member at Jenkintown MS/HS was diagnosed today, October 22, 2020, with lab-confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19). The individual reported to the district that they were symptomatic on Friday evening, October 16, 2020 and has not been in school since. This information was reported to the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (OPH) immediately and referred for contact tracing to determine if any individuals were in close contact with the infected staff member. It was determined that there were no close contacts of students or staff; and therefore, contract tracing is not necessary for this instance. However, thorough cleaning and disinfecting of all associated areas were performed.

We understand the natural reaction of wanting to know as much information as possible when there is a case of COVID-19. However, there are a number of legal obligations, including, but not limited to, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), which guide what information can and cannot be shared in individual circumstances in order to protect individual privacy. Recent guidance from the standpoint of HIPAA can be viewed [here](#).

An individual infected by COVID-19 may experience a wide spectrum of symptoms, which can range from being completely asymptomatic, or mild through severe symptoms. We would like to remind everyone of the symptoms we are monitoring for all students and staff. Any of the below symptoms require exclusion from school until a negative lab-confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) test is presented or a doctor's note with a differential diagnosis. The doctor's note must identify a reason your child can return without a COVID 19 test. The note cannot simply say your child can return to school. We cannot accept notes that identify colds, viruses, and allergies as reasons to return without COVID 19 testing because these illnesses exhibit similar symptoms as COVID-19.

Please know that we are attempting to keep our doors open and our community healthy. We are strictly following the Montgomery County Office of Public Health School Exclusion Recommendations so we can accomplish this goal.

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## **School Exclusion Symptoms**

### Two of the following:

Fever- measured or subjective  
Chills  
Fatigue  
myalgia  
Headache  
Sore throat  
Congestion  
Nausea  
Vomiting  
Diarrhea

### One of the following:

Cough  
Shortness of breath  
Difficulty breathing  
New loss of taste or smell

The Montgomery County Office of Public Health has encouraged the district to share the following information related to COVID-19.

*COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose and mouth of an infected person. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Older people, and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. Because of the risks posed by coronavirus, it is important that we prevent and slow down transmission of the disease.*

*The Montgomery County Office of Public Health, in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, requires that all close contacts of the infected person quarantine for 14 days, starting from the last day of exposure. Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. OPH determines what constitutes a close contact and determines who is required to quarantine as part of their contact tracing process.*

*Close contacts should stay home for these 14 days and, if possible, stay away from others, especially people who are at high risk for getting very sick from the disease. Close contacts within the same household should quarantine for 24 days. Parents should monitor children for symptoms. Watch for fever (100.4°F), cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19, including difficulty breathing, diarrhea, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or a new loss of taste or smell. Montgomery County Office of Public Health will provide guidance and answer any questions regarding these exclusions.*

*Free coronavirus testing is available at sites across Montgomery County. Locations can be found*

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*[here](#). More information about coronavirus is available through the [Centers for Disease Control](#) and the [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#).*

*If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Montgomery County Office of Public Health, the Division of Communicable Disease Control at (610) 278-5117.*

We sincerely appreciate everyone's cooperation with the above guidelines so that we can continue to provide an option for in-person instruction for our students.

Wishing everyone good health.

Stay safe and be well,

Jill A. Takacs, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools