



Dows Lane COVID-19 Update

October 2, 2020

Dear Irvington School Community,

The past 24 hours has certainly been stressful for some members of the Irvington UFSD family. As we know, these are difficult times that we all face, but as a community we will take it one careful step at a time, always focused on the health and safety of our students and staff members.

Throughout the day today, the administrative team has been in communication with the Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) and the school physician. Also, the New York State Department of Health Contact Tracers began their important work today of evaluating all possible interpersonal contacts that may have occurred. This process will provide the Department of Health with critical data to inform local health and operational related decisions.

To enable the Contact Tracers the opportunity to perform this important work and for the District to understand how it relates to the health of our school community, we have made the determination that it is responsible for [Dows Lane Elementary School to be closed for in-person learning through Monday, October 5th. On Monday, all students will participate in distance learning.](#) Over the coming days, in partnership with the respective medical professionals, the District will continue to evaluate a responsible reopening date. As soon as a decision is made, the school community will be promptly notified. [Please note that MSS, IMS and IHS will be open for in-person learning on Monday.](#)

While the students and staff members who were direct contacts with the individual who tested positive for COVID-19 will be guided to be tested by the NYSDOH, I understand that many other community members may consider having their children tested in the future. With this in mind, I would like to share that NYSDOH has updated its guidance to indicate that negative rapid antigen tests will no longer be accepted to clear someone to attend work or school. In those cases, individuals will be required to have a molecular or PCR test performed in addition to the rapid antigen test to confirm the negative results. Therefore, should you seek testing, I highly recommend you request that a molecular or PCR test be performed. This will take longer to gain results and is not as comfortable to the patient as the rapid antigen test, but it will guarantee the most reliable results. To locate a testing center near you, [please click here](#). Additionally, for your information, I am [sharing a flowchart](#) that illustrates the screening process utilized by the District for symptomatic students and staff members. As always, should you have any questions about your child's health, please contact your family physician. For questions related to school practices, please contact your principal.

Finally, I want to remind you that each of us plays a role in preventing the spread of COVID-19. Always remember to wear a facemask, social distance and wash your hands. Additionally, please do your part to ensure that children are not socializing without adhering to the necessary health protocols.

I sincerely hope that you have a restful weekend and are able to enjoy time as a family.

My best wishes,

Kris

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