September 23, 2020

Dear Northern High School Families,

Today the District learned that a high school student tested positive for COVID-19. This student has not been in school since last week when the student was sent home sick. District administration have been in contact with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) and are coordinating all actions in accordance with their guidelines and the protocols established in the District’s Health and Safety Plan.

Specifically, the following steps have been taken:

- The Pennsylvania Department of Health and their Epidemiology Team have assisted with the initial risk assessment and contact tracing;
- Students and/or staff identified as having been in close contact have been notified by either the District or the DOH;
- Appropriate quarantining/isolation measures have taken place for the student recovering from the illness and for those students determined to have been in close contact;
- Thorough cleaning/disinfecting has taken place in all spaces visited by the student in addition to the heightened cleaning protocols in place for all school spaces;
- District-wide communication to families has been sent through Blackboard Connect and posted to the district webpage as a District News item.

After initial contact tracing, it was determined that due to the safety protocols that have been put in place with the District’s tiered opening and social distancing, the high school will remain open. The District remains in close contact with the family and sends well wishes to the affected student. We are confident in the steps that have been taken to safeguard all our students, and we are thankful to our families for being careful to keep symptomatic children at home.

Should additional updates be necessary on this specific case, we will certainly be in touch.

Sincerely,

Steve Kirkpatrick
Superintendent of Schools