



Berkeley Middle School

1118 Ironbound Road • Williamsburg, VA 23188
Phone: (757) 229-8051 | Fax: (757) 208-0249
wjccschools.org/bms

Panagiotis Tsigaridas Principal
Christie Simon Assistant Principal
Tyson Traver Assistant Principal

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Good Afternoon, Berkeley Middle School Team:

Recently, an employee in our school reported that she has tested positive for COVID-19. The school division immediately contacted the Peninsula Health Department to assist with any contact tracing that might be necessary. Fortunately, the health department advises us that risk to other workers is low based on the nature of the employee's duties and limited contact with others.

Supporting the health and safety of our employees and students is our greatest priority. WJCC Schools staff conducts deep cleaning for health every day. All hard surfaces and touch points are disinfected using products that meet CDC guidelines and, when necessary, foggers are used to clean large areas. As a reminder, all WJCC Schools employees must complete a self-screening for health upon arrival at work. Face coverings must be worn in common areas of buildings and any time an employee is within six feet of another person at work.

In addition, you can take these steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- Avoid close contact (about 6 feet) with people who are sick or people who are at a higher risk of developing severe disease (e.g., older adults and people who have severe chronic medical conditions).
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing. If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home if you feel sick.

Employees are asked to help us maintain a healthy work environment by wiping down frequently touched objects and surfaces (e.g., tables, countertops, light switches, doorknobs, and cabinet handles) in their areas. Cleaning products are available at each work location.

Understandably, news that a co-worker has tested positive for COVID-19 may be upsetting. Everyone is encouraged to monitor for symptoms of COVID-19, including fever (100° F or higher), chills cough, shortness of breath, fatigue not associated with a previously diagnosed medical condition, muscle/body aches, headache (not occasional) accompanied by other symptoms, loss of appetite and/or taste and smell, sore throat, congestion, nausea or vomiting. If symptoms develop please contact your healthcare provider.

While we each take steps to monitor and maintain our own good health, let us also send healing thoughts to our colleague and well wishes for his recovery.

If you have additional questions, please contact me directly. Please understand, however, that for privacy reasons, I am not able to discuss specifics about the employee or his illness.

Thank you for all you do to support WJCC Schools and one another.

Panagiotis Tsigaridas
Berkeley Middle School Principal