

HIGH POINT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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Superintendent
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Business Administrator/Board Secretary
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September 24, 2020

This afternoon, we initiated an investigation into the possibility of a COVID-19 case involving a member of our school community. This possible case of COVID-19 is believed to be unrelated to the positive case we reported to you on September 22, 2020. As a result of a positive COVID-19 case from September 22, and an additional, likely positive COVID-19 case, we have decided to suspend in-person instruction, as well as all in-person athletic and extracurricular activities for 14 days. The decision to close is being made by High Point. The Sussex County Department of Health supports this decision, but is not mandating a school closure.

This ongoing investigation, which is being conducted by High Point Regional High School, in close consultation with the Sussex County Department of Health (DOH), has revealed that it is highly likely that the two cases are unrelated and cannot be traced to a single event or origin. When the Department of Health conducts contact tracing and determines that no common event or origin links two positive COVID-19 cases, school districts are required to close for 14 days. However, because of the details related to this latest, suspected case, the Department of Health has not conducted contact tracing; they may initiate contact tracing at their discretion, as needed; we will continue to follow the DOH directives and protocols. Exercising an abundance of caution, High Point has decided to proceed as if there is indeed a second case of COVID-19 within our school community, and that the two cases are unrelated. Our closure is a precautionary measure.

Classes will continue virtually from tomorrow, Friday, September 25 through Wednesday, October 7. Athletics and extracurriculars may resume on October 7, and in-person instruction will resume on Thursday, October 8. We will continue to follow our current schedule for the two (2) week virtual period with both Cohorts participating together in the virtual classes.

The symptoms of COVID-19 are similar to the regular seasonal influenza and include fever, coughing, and shortness of breath. Some have reported additional symptoms, such as a runny nose, sore throat, nausea, lethargy, lack of appetite, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Individuals who need medical care should call their medical provider to report their illness prior to seeking care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital. Parents of students exhibiting flu-like symptoms or staff exhibiting flu-like symptoms are asked to contact a school nurse, local health authorities or the Sussex Department of Health.

We are closely monitoring this situation and will provide you with updates as appropriate. If you have questions, please contact Superintendent Dr. Scott Ripley [SRipley@hpregioanl.org], Principal Jon Tallamy [JTallamy@hpregioanl.org] or call the school at 973.875.7204 or 973.875.3101: we will respond to all inquiries, as soon as we are able.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "S. Ripley", written over a circular scribble.

Scott D. Ripley, Ed.D.
Superintendent