

SCHOOL CITY OF HAMMOND

41 Williams Street • Hammond, IN 46320
(219) 933-2400 • www.hammond.k12.in.us



SCOTT E. MILLER, SUPERINTENDENT

March 18, 2020

Dear SCH Families and Community,

In the past week, the School City of Hammond has taken unprecedented steps to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19, Corona Virus, including closing all school buildings for at least 3 weeks. SCH strongly believes that a Transportation Department employee has tested positive for the Corona Virus. The Departments of Health will not confirm this due to HIPAA concerns. In addition, that employee's spouse is also a SCH Transportation Department employee and is being quarantined for 14 days. Due to a lack of COVID-19 tests, the spouse has not yet been tested.

The employee who was confirmed positive works as a bus monitor and last worked on Tuesday, 3/10/20, servicing a small group of students to special programs at the Area Career Center, Eggers, and Edgewater in Gary. The ACC students are not part of the CTE or ACCU programs. In late February and up to March 3rd, the employee also assisted in the transport of a student to Morton Elementary. The spouse, a bus driver, serviced routes to Scott MS and Maywood as recently as last Friday, 3/13/20, on Bus 146 and also recently serviced routes to O'Bannon. Individual letters are being sent home today to inform parents if their child was on any of the above routes.

Just because a student was on any of these routes does not necessarily mean they are infected, but appropriate precautions should be taken. We highly recommend contacting your health care provider for recommendations and follow-up, especially if symptoms consistent with the virus are apparent. Symptoms may include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If these or any other symptoms are severe, please immediately contact your health care provider.

The School City of Hammond recommends you continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control guidelines. These include:

- Staying home when sick and avoiding close contact with sick people
- Frequent, proper handwashing using soap and water for at least 20 seconds or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Avoiding touching your mouth, nose or eyes with unwashed hands
- Practicing respiratory etiquette (e.g., covering coughs and sneeze with a tissue)
- Practicing social distancing. Avoiding groups of 10 or more.
- Routinely cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces

More information about COVID-19 is available at <https://www.in.gov/coronavirus/> or contact the Indiana State Department of Health at 1-317-233-7125. School City of Hammond will continue to work closely with the State Health Department and public health officials to communicate updates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Scott E. Miller'.

Scott E. Miller, Superintendent

Board of School Trustees

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