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Dear Middletown School District Families,

I am reaching out with a critically important update. Earlier this evening, we were contacted by the Department of Health and made aware **someone regularly in Middletown High School (MHS) has been infected by the COVID-19 virus.** March 9 was the last known date this individual was present at the school.

Anyone who **was in the MHS** from March 2 - 9, **and is symptomatic**, should contact their healthcare provider.

As you know, all Middletown City schools, with the approval of the Board of Education, will follow the order from Orange County Health Department and County Executive Steven Neuhaus. All Middletown schools will be closed for a two-week period, beginning Monday, March 16, 2020. This includes ALL athletics, in addition to before- and after-school and extra-curricular activities. **This most recent update has changed our medication pick-up plans. Families should no longer come to the school to retrieve medication until such time as they are contacted.** Tentatively, schools will reopen on Monday, March 30, 2020.

People who were present on the MHS campus need to be especially aware of any symptoms they have related to COVID-19. Based on the science of the disease, it can take up to two weeks to have the infection become evident and for someone infected to exhibit symptoms.

Please understand, the person who has the infection **will not be cleared to re-enter MHS until the following occurs:**

- Seven days has passed from the last test where the person has tested positive for the infection **and**
- Two subsequent negative tests have occurred 24 hours apart.

There is no evidence the COVID-19 disease is airborne. In order to be affected, all the evidence shows the disease is droplet transmitted or transmitted by someone who, within hours after the infected person touched the same surface with some sort of bodily fluid (sneezing, runny nose, sweat) as the infected person caused that fluid to be on.

It has been emphasized for weeks a community spread component is real and should be taken seriously. In most cases of community spread, symptomatic people are walking around and have no idea they are infected. ***Here, on the other hand, we know of one person so people can at least be armed with the knowledge of what to look for.***

The best way to prevent community spread of COVID-19 is to avoid groups, engage in social distancing, and be aware of anyone who appears sick. People who sense their own symptoms should contact their healthcare provider before just showing up at their doctor's office.

During this time of extended closure the District will continue to actively assess and monitor all aspects of this rapidly changing situation in consultation with local, state and federal officials. Students and staff, with the exception of certain essential personnel, will not be permitted in any of our schools while we assess and consider all of the information and guidance being provided to the district, which has literally changed by the hour.

We remain committed to the full student body and staff and thank all who have provided guidance and support to the district over the past week. This is a complex matter and we will continue to manage it with the same sense of purpose and sound leadership our students, staff and community deserve.

Respectfully,

Richard Del Moro, Superintendent of Schools