

Dear Simsbury Public Schools Staff and Parents/Guardians,

Last night, we were informed that a SHS student has tested positive for COVID-19. In following our protocols, we contacted the Farmington Valley Health District to collaboratively assess the case. Given the specific timing of the student's symptoms and testing, we were advised that there was no need to conduct further contact tracing here at SHS. We also learned that the exposure may have occurred at a social event outside the school setting held over this past weekend. That information was passed along to the Farmington Valley Health District, and they are conducting further contact tracing related to that event. Any other students who are determined to be close contacts with a positive case will be required to quarantine for 14 days.

Given the potential size of the event in question, the Farmington Valley Health District will need additional time beyond today to complete its contact tracing. **Therefore, we have decided to shift Simsbury High School fully to remote learning for Thursday, November 19th and Friday, November 20th.** We will make a decision about next week's instruction after the contact tracing process is finished and we can collaborate with the Farmington Valley Health District about a recommendation.

Staff will have the choice to teach from home or from SHS. No students are allowed to be on campus.

Our goal during this difficult time is to keep Simsbury High School open to the greatest extent possible. In order to achieve that goal, all members of the community have a responsibility to follow basic mitigation strategies — not only in the school environment, but also at outside events. Please have a conversation with your child about the importance of the decisions they make outside of school. If they have attended social events larger than the Governor's recommended maximum of 10 people, they should self-quarantine, whether or not they have been contacted by the Farmington Valley Health District.

One of the greatest strengths of our school is the partnership we have with this community. Thank you for all that you have done over the past few months to cooperate with our efforts to combat the spread of COVID-19. This is a crucial time to refocus and to emphasize doing the right thing in service of the greater good.

Sincerely,

Matt Curtis
Superintendent

Steve Patrina
SHS Principal