

COVID-19 POSITIVE TEST NOTICE TO PUBLIC

Dear parents and staff,

Hemphill ISD has received confirmation that a student who attends Hemphill Middle School tested positive for COVID-19 during the school closure. Prior to the positive test, the student was last on campus on August 25, 2020. You are receiving this notice, because you were, or your child was present on the campus in the seven days prior to the individual's diagnosis of COVID-19.

Hemphill ISD's Mitigation Plan provides for extensive cleaning and sanitization protocols, as well as social distancing procedures, including the recommendation of wearing face masks. As such, CDC guidance provides that the risk of someone contracting COVID-19 from the student is low and this notice is being provided in an abundance of caution. Moreover, if you or your child was determined to have been in close contact with the individual, you will be contacted by the Health Department.

It is important to note that:

- The Middle School student's family recently reported that the student tested positive while HISD was closed during Hurricane Laura.
- The student was asymptomatic while on campus and fully participated in school activities.
- Due to the extended school closure, contact tracing is not applicable.

Please continue to closely monitor your health. Should you exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19, identified below which indicate a possible COVID-19 infection, please contact your health provider immediately. In addition, please continue all other safeguards outlined by the CDC including frequently washing your hands with soap and water, avoiding touching your face, wearing a mask in public, staying home if you feel sick, and cleaning frequently touched surfaces and objects daily.

COVID-19 Symptoms
Temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher when taken by mouth
Sore throat
New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

Hemphill ISD will continue to comply with all state and local guidance and strictly enforce the District's rigorous health screening, social distancing, and sanitization practices for all programs. The health and safety of our students and community remains our top priority, and the District will continue to work closely with the Local Health Department as it responds to individual cases of COVID-19. We appreciate your cooperation as we work through these challenges and continue to support our HISD community.

Sincerely,

Jeremy McDaniel
HMS Principal