



# WEST HAVEN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

*"Schools Committed to Excellence"*

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NEIL C. CAVALLARO

*Superintendent of Schools*

September 14, 2020

Dear West Haven Families, Students and Staff,

Last week, a letter was provided to the members of our high school community alerting them to a positive case of COVID-19 at West Haven High School. West Haven Public Schools (WHPS) worked in cooperation with the West Haven Health Department (WHHD) to identify all individuals who may have been in close contact with the case. As a result, WHHD recommended that some individuals should quarantine in order to maintain the health and safety of our school community.

This weekend, WHPS were made aware that additional positive cases were identified and, again, worked alongside the WHHD to initiate contact tracing activities. With highest priority given to the health and safety of our staff and students, the decision was made to close West Haven High School for Monday and Tuesday of this week to allow for timely and complete contact tracing to take place. While we understand the concerns of our school community and want to provide you with updates and accurate information as quickly as possible, please be advised that information related to case investigation is confidential and private health information will not be disclosed by WHPS or WHHD.

During this two-day closure of the high school, our building is undergoing rigorous cleaning as our efforts to assist the WHHD in their contact tracing activities continue. We are confident that this closure, while unfortunate, demonstrates a commitment to keeping students and staff safe. Our goal continues to be providing ongoing, high-quality, in-person instruction to every student in the West Haven Public Schools. We demonstrate this effort through the use of face coverings, thorough hand washing/sanitizing techniques, and effective cleaning procedures. These are protocols we can control in the context of our school buildings. We again, ask for your cooperation in reducing your exposure outside of our schools in order to maintain low transmission in our community.

The vision of West Haven Public Schools is embracing a passion for learning. Our aim is to prepare each individual with the motivation, desire, knowledge and skills necessary to meet the challenge of an ever-changing world. We must stand together now, a community united, to meet the change before us. It is now that the generations of learners we have prepared for this moment must rise to the challenge and do the next right thing. Do what you can to protect yourself, protect each other, and keep our students in school.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our staff and students.

Sincerely,

Neil C. Cavallaro

Superintendent of Schools