



CORNERSTONE CHARTER ACADEMY

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August 21, 2020

Dear Cornerstone Families,

Unfortunately, I am writing this letter to inform our families that today, a Cornerstone parent has notified us that they tested positive for COVID-19.

The parent's symptoms became clear only after the family had sent their students to school on Tuesday. The students passed screening protocols to enter the building and displayed no symptoms of the virus on Tuesday. The students and their classmates followed safety protocols at school, wearing face coverings, maintaining social distance, and washing their hands. Frequently-touched surfaces were cleaned during the school day, and the school was cleaned and sanitized that evening.

However, based on the specific facts of this case, we believe that Cornerstone students and staff **may** have been exposed to the virus. If your child was in a classroom with a student who had been exposed, you will receive additional communication from the school.

Because of these circumstances, Cornerstone will be moving to a fully remote learning plan for at least the next 10 days. In addition, the school will be closed with no academic instruction on Monday, August 24 and Tuesday, August 25 to support our move to remote instruction.

You will receive additional information from your child's school-level administrator regarding this transition on Monday, August 25.

We believe that attending school in person is best for students, and we have worked to make it possible for as many students as we can. Teachers and students alike were thrilled to return to the building, and we were pleased to see that our safety protocols turned out to be both thorough and enforceable.

I think it goes without saying that these circumstances sadden all of us, and I want to reassure everyone that the decision to move to fully remote learning for the next 10 days was not made lightly. We considered the specific facts of this case as well as the potential risk of exposure for students and staff, the time needed to disinfect the building, and the effect on our school if additional families now choose our fully remote option.

This is our first encounter with the virus at school, and we are working to proceed safely for our students, staff, and families. During the next ten days, the Board of Directors and school administration will be meeting to evaluate the best course of action to support both learning and safety.

The school building will be completely closed to school and janitorial staff as of 6 PM today. Tomorrow, our janitorial company will be fogging and disinfecting the building according to the protocols recommended for our situation.

Per state guidelines, we have also spoken with the Guilford County Department of Health. We will follow any guidance we may receive from this department.

Please contact the school at (336) 482-3855 if anyone in your household tests positive for COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued support of and commitment to Cornerstone.

Sincerely,

Joe Caraher
Director