



**Skaneateles Central School District**  
*Nationally Recognized for Excellence*  
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Dear Skaneateles family,

I am reaching out to follow up on several questions and concerns we encountered after announcing our remote instruction day yesterday afternoon. While confidentiality and privacy laws prevent us from sharing any individual information, we will share what can about the process unfolding with the Onondaga County Department of Health and their contact tracing efforts that began last night. Please be especially sensitive to any students and families impacted by COVID-19. This could happen to any of us at any time. Please do whatever you can to protect the privacy of our students and their families when they need it most.

Q: How will I know if my child was exposed?

A: We produced detailed information to the Onondaga County Department of Health yesterday and they use that information to determine who was at risk. The two criteria most important are proximity and duration of exposure. Our mask wearing practices, social distancing procedures, limited class sizes, and cohort model drastically reduce the number of people deemed at serious risk of exposure. The Department of Health is solely responsible for contact tracing and they will directly contact any individuals of concern. This process began last night and will likely continue throughout the weekend.

Q: If the infection is in the middle school, why close the entire district?

A: We were provided information from the Onondaga County Department of Health that could potentially impact multiple schools within our district. Out of an abundance of caution and in the interest of limiting exposure, the district pivoted to remote instruction today while the Department of Health completes the contact tracing process.

Q: When will school resume as normal?

A: Right now we are scheduled to resume normal operations on Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. If we learn any new information over the weekend that will impact our return to school, we will communicate via school messenger, robo call, and our school district website by Sunday evening. If you do not hear from us, please return to school as normal on Monday.

Thank you for your flexibility as we navigate these challenges together.

Stronger together,

Eric Knuth  
Superintendent of Schools