

Dear Hatboro-Horsham Families,

We have been advised that a Simmons student may have been exposed to COVID-19 during a visit to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia facility in King of Prussia, where a healthcare provider has been diagnosed with COVID-19. The potential exposure occurred on Thursday and the student was at Simmons Friday and earlier today, before being sent home following guidance from the Department of Health. The student in question has not tested positive and is not exhibiting symptoms. The Department of Health has advised us that this student poses low risk to the Simmons community.

It bears repeating that at this time there are no known or reported cases of COVID-19 coronavirus at Simmons or in our HHSD community. However, out of an abundance of caution, I have decided to close Simmons Elementary on Tuesday, March 10 for deep cleaning of the facilities. We are assessing the length of time needed to perform this deep cleaning and additional days may be needed. We will keep the community updated. Simmons elementary will close at 6 PM on March 9 for this cleaning, and all evening community events at Simmons on March 9 and 10 are cancelled.

It is not necessary to close other schools at this time and other HHSD schools will operate normally on Tuesday, March 10.

We are in contact with the Montgomery County Department of Health in this matter and taking their guidance as we make decisions. If you have general questions about COVID-19 coronavirus or would like to review our previous communications, you can visit our resource page: <https://www.hatboro-horsham.org/Page/1600>

It's worth reiterating from our previous communications that individual preventive measures are the very best defense we have against the spread of this virus. Please continue to personally observe and emphasize the importance of this guidance to your children:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or use your elbow to cover them while coughing or sneezing,
- Wash your hands with soap or sanitizer frequently, and
- Stay home if you are sick! The single greatest risk factor for spread is people going to work or school sick.

The safety of our children and our community are our highest priority. We have been preparing for this situation and are prepared to take the steps necessary to ensure the well-being of our students, staff, and families. Thank you for your understanding as we face the challenges associated with the coronavirus, which are likely to continue in the weeks and months to come. We'll continue to keep you informed as we have new information.

Thank You,

Curtis J. Griffin, Ed.D. | Superintendent of Schools

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