

WHITEHALL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PO Box 29, 87 Buckley Road, Whitehall, New York 12887-3633
Whitehall – Birthplace of the U. S. Navy – www.railroaders.net

Ethan Burgess
Jr-Sr High School Principal
518 499-1770
eburgess@railroaders.net

Patrick M. Dee
Superintendent of Schools
518 499-1772
pdee@railroaders.net

Judy Gould
Elementary School Principal
518 499-0330
jgould@railroaders.net

Julie Umar
Director of Special Education
518 499-1771
jumar@railroaders.net

Kate DuBois
School Business Manager
518 499-0346
kdubois@railroaders.net

Dear Whitehall Community,

The district learned on Friday, Dec. 11 that an individual in the Whitehall School District has tested positive for COVID-19. This individual was last in the building Wednesday morning, Dec. 9.

The district has been working closely with Washington County Public Health Services to perform contact tracing. At this time, the county is in process of contacting those individuals that will need to quarantine.

Due to the number of individuals who will be required to quarantine, in an abundance of caution, the elementary school will pivot to all remote instruction beginning Monday, Dec. 14, through Wednesday, Dec. 23.

Please know that this was an incredibly difficult decision that was made in consultation with the Washington County Public Health Services. We know the importance of keeping our students in school, however, with the number of elementary school staff and students impacted by contact with the positive individual, we simply have to move to a remote learning model to ensure that all students are receiving instruction.

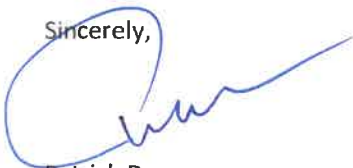
Please understand that there is not a COVID outbreak in the district. This is not a closure of school, but a temporary shift in the instructional model. Students will still be expected to log-in or follow the plans previously set by their teachers for daily instruction. I want to remind families that our school buildings continue to be a safe place, but this is a unique situation.

Please note that the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and other privacy laws restrict us from disclosing or confirming any personally identifiable information. We cannot identify anyone who has tested positive.

Please remember that our community must continue to work together to ensure overall public health. Following guidelines regarding masks, social gatherings and social distancing is important both inside and outside of school buildings. If your child shows any possible symptoms, please be certain to seek the advice of your family physician. Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to keeping everyone safe.

Any additional questions, including information about testing procedures, can be directed to Washington County Public Health Services at 518-746-2400.

Sincerely,



Patrick Dee
Superintendent of Schools