

SMETHPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Home of the HUBBERS



**Smethport Area
School District**

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January 5, 2021

Dear SASD Community:

Smethport Area School District has been notified that a staff member at the Smethport Jr./Sr. High School is presumed positive for COVID-19.

The staff member was exposed to COVID-19 over the holiday break and has exhibited symptoms of COVID-19. The staff member did not return to school for classes after the break. Based on the details of this case, there are no "in school" contact traces and the case will not be a "countable" case for the high school. All "countable" case counts were reset to zero (0) on January 4, 2021.

Smethport School District administration will be following Health and Safety Protocols outlined in the SASD Health and Safety Plan and cooperating with any PA Department of Health (DOH) contact tracing activities and directives. We will continue to closely monitor factors in this case.

At this time, the situation does not require the high school to be closed and/or shift to remote instruction. Both the elementary and high school returned to in person instruction on January 4, 2021. However, parents and families should be advised that situations like this increase the chance that we will shift to remote instruction for our students. A shift to remote instruction will be driven by actual positive "countable" cases in each school, evidence of the virus spreading in school and/or staffing shortages. It is possible that either the elementary school, the high school or both schools could shift to remote learning. A case is "countable" if the person was in school during the time they were infectious. After a school closure or shift to remote instruction, "countable" case counts reset to zero (0).

If we shift to remote learning, teachers and staff will work from school. Students with no internet may be required to attend school to obtain internet. Based on their educational program, some students may have to attend school. Transportation will still be available and meals will be available for pick up or delivery. The district will consider shifting high school students to remote learning if they are needed at home to assist elementary age siblings and family members. To keep us open for in-person instruction, everyone must follow all Health and Safety protocols, wear face coverings, practice social distancing, limit travel & activities, and wash hands. It is very important to stay home if you are ill, have been exposed to a known case of COVID-19 or have COVID-19 symptoms.

Sincerely,

David London, Superintendent