

URGENT MESSAGE FROM FCS

Floyd County Schools has been alerted by public health officials of a confirmed employee COVID-19 case within our district. The employee is currently being treated at a local hospital. We are working with public health officials to determine the impact on our local schools and community.

Cave Spring Elementary School will be closed to all staff for the next two days. Thursday and Friday are student holidays as indicated on the 2019-2020 school year calendar, so there will be no additional closings for the district at this time. Updates regarding this concern will be posted on our district website, social media channels, and to FCS families through our mass notification system via phone call, email, and/or text message.

FCS has already taken additional precautions to ensure effective sanitation practices within all facilities and buses, which include installing additional hand sanitizers, fogging once a week with an FDA approved sanitizer, and implementing antibacterial surface wipes. FCS will thoroughly clean CSES over the next two days.

Recommended daily actions families can take to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases include:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Cover coughs or sneeze with a tissue.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Adults and children who are sick should stay home from work or school and stay away from other people until they are better.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

If you believe your child is showing symptoms, please call the local hospitals before arriving. As a friendly reminder, if your child stays home from school sick, please remember to provide a parent and/or doctor's note.

We will continue to collaborate, share information, and monitor the situation with local and state health officials to help protect our school communities.

Second FCS Employee Confirmed with COVID-19 (3/16/20)

Floyd County public health officials have notified Floyd County Schools (FCS) that an employee who serves both Alto Park Elementary and Cave Spring Elementary has been confirmed to have COVID-19 and is currently in self-quarantine. It is important to note that this employee may have come into contact with teachers and students while in attendance at the 5th grade FCS Quiz Bowl event last Tuesday at the Krannert Center at Berry College.

All FCS schools have been closed to staff and students, with the exception of central office staff and custodians since last Thursday. In accordance with newly issued federal guidance and Governor Kemp's signed Executive Order, Floyd County Schools will remain closed for all students through Tuesday, March 31st with current plans of classes resuming Wednesday, April 1st.

FCS has already taken additional precautions to ensure effective sanitation practices within all facilities and buses, which included installing additional hand sanitizers, fogging once a week with an FDA approved sanitizer, and implementing antibacterial surface wipes.

Recommended daily actions families can take to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases include:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Cover coughs or sneeze with a tissue.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Adults and children who are sick should stay home from work or school and stay away from other people until they are better.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

We ask that our staff and families continue to follow the COVID-19 guidelines as shared by dph.georgia.gov and cdc.gov including monitoring you and your child's health for fever and symptoms of respiratory illness including a runny nose, cough and/or shortness of breath. Please call your local health provider for assistance if these symptoms occur.

Updates regarding this concern will be posted on our district website, social media channels, and to FCS families through our mass notification system via phone call, email, and/or text message.

Newton County Coronavirus Letters

NCSS Notified that Employee Diagnosed With COVID-19

Posted on 03/15/2020

On Sunday, March 15, the Gwinnett-Newton-Rockdale Department of Health notified Newton County School System officials that an employee of the district who works at the Newton County Theme School was diagnosed with coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19.

The Health Department is conducting an investigation and is working to identify close contacts of the employee and take every precaution necessary to ensure the health and safety of those individuals. The health department encourages individuals to stay home if you are ill and contact your doctor or health professional for more directions. It is also important that students remain home during the school closure to reduce the chance of coming in contact with individuals who are ill. We ask that all stakeholders—students, employees, parents and community members to please follow COVID-19 guidance as emphasized by local, state and national health care providers.

Per our previous announcement, all schools are closed effective Monday, March 16 indefinitely. Schools and school buses will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected during the school closure.

We will continue to post updates on our COVID-19 website and will communicate additional information with families and employees as it becomes available. Thank you.

NCSS Informed of Second Employee Testing Positive for COVID 19

Posted on 03/18/2020

The Gwinnett-Newton-Rockdale Health Department has notified the Newton County School System (NCSS) that a second employee of the district, who works at Clements Middle School, has tested positive for COVID-19. According to the health department, this employee did not begin exhibiting symptoms until after schools were closed. Because this individual was not present in any of our buildings and did not have any contact with students or staff at the onset of symptoms the Health Department has informed us that the risk of transmission is extremely low for our students and staff.

NCSS understands that students, parents, and employees are very concerned about exposure to COVID-19; however, school system employees are unable to answer questions about the identity of either one of our two school employees who have tested positive for COVID-19, nor can we answer health related questions regarding the virus.

If you believe you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed to the virus, per the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, follow the guidance of your healthcare provider and local health department. For additional information you may also contact the State of Georgia's new COVID-19 hotline at 844-442-2681.



Dr. Brian Otott
Superintendent

March 16, 2020

Dear Shelton Elementary School Families,

This letter is to inform you that today the Department of Public Health (DPH) notified us they have confirmed an employee at Shelton Elementary School has contracted the COVID-19 coronavirus. The health of our students and staff is our highest concern, and as Shelton Elementary and all other Paulding County schools are closed at this time, we will be conducting a thorough cleaning of the facility using a commercial virucide disinfectant. This will be an additional step to the ongoing disinfecting/sanitizing taking place in all Paulding County schools and buses during the closure. We want you to know that over the last several weeks the school district's COVID-19 Task Force has been planning for this scenario and has initiated steps that follow DPH and state Department of Education guidance for a confirmed case in a school.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the DPH believe that most people will not develop serious illness, but advise that everyone should operate under the assumption that there is COVID-19 transmission in our community already and that we all need to remain vigilant. We can help prevent the spread of the virus by practicing basic but essential preventive hygiene, especially diligent hand-washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and social distancing. **However, if you or your child should experience symptoms, especially respiratory symptoms, the Department of Public Health advises that you should immediately contact your local health care provider.** Your physician or pediatrician will be able to provide the best health care advice.

Privacy laws prohibit us from sharing details of this specific case. Our Task Force will continue to monitor developments closely and update our community. Please continue to check the school district's COVID-19 Coronavirus Updates Web site for information at www.paulding.k12.ga.us, or from the link you can find on your school Web site.

Thank you for your support, and please stay tuned for further updates.

News Release

For Immediate Release

March 9, 2020

For More Information Contact

Brian Noyes or Shumuriel Ratliff, FCS Communications
470-254-6830 or communications@fultonschools.org

FCS Coronavirus Update 4:30 p.m.

On Monday, March 9, Fulton County Schools was notified by the Fulton County Department of Health that an employee was diagnosed with coronavirus, otherwise known as COVID-19. This employee is a teacher at Bear Creek Middle School and Woodland Middle School in the cities of Fairburn and East Point, respectively.

The employee felt ill on Friday, March 6, and was subsequently admitted to a local hospital. Fulton County Schools is not sharing which hospital and can not legally disclose the employee's health condition. The school district is in the process of providing the Department of Health with a list of students and staff members that the employee may have had contact with so that health department staff can follow up.

Based on concerns of possible exposure, the schools were immediately dismissed today and all students and staff were sent home. Creekside High School also has been closed due to its close proximity to Bear Creek Middle School and the sharing of several staff members between the schools. A number of families also have students who attend both schools.

Tomorrow, March 10, the entire school system – all FCS schools and administrative offices – will be closed. This allows for cleaning and disinfection of all schools as well as for district officials to conduct a risk assessment for the entire school system. A decision about the length of the closing and next steps will be announced tomorrow by 5 p.m.

The district will continue to post updates on its COVID-19 website at www.fultonschools.org/coronavirus and will communicate additional information with families and employees as it becomes available.

Meanwhile, Fulton County Schools asks that all stakeholders – students, employees, parents and community members – follow COVID-19 guidance as emphasized by local, state and national health care providers.

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About the Fulton County School System. The Fulton County School System is the fourth largest school system in Georgia. More than 93,500 students attend 106 schools in the cities of Alpharetta, Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Palmetto, Roswell, Sandy Springs, South Fulton, and Union City.





March 17, 2020

Dear Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Providers:

In response to the COVID-19 State of Emergency, the Department of Community Health is waiving certain policies related to telehealth/telemedicine to support the use of telehealth in diagnosis and treatment. This is in response to the viral pandemic and to provide continuity of services and treatment with reduced risk of exposure to Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids members and providers.

Expansion of the use of telehealth will be supported in the following manner:

1. Waving the telehealth services originating site limitations. Originating sites are listed below.
2. Allowing telehealth services to be provided by the following modalities:
 - Telephone communication
 - Use of webcam or other audio and video technology
 - Video cell phone communication

Originating sites include the following:

- Physician and Practitioner's Offices
- Hospitals
- Rural Health Clinics
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Hospital-based or CAH based Renal Dialysis Centers (Independent Renal Dialysis Facilities are not eligible originating sites)
- Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)
- Local Education Authorities
- County Boards of Health
- Community Mental Health Centers
- A mobile stroke unit (only for purposes of diagnosis, evaluation, or treatment of symptoms of an acute stroke)
- The home of a Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids member
- Emergency Medical Services Ambulance
- Pharmacies



During the period of COVID-19 emergency response, providers should make a good faith effort to ensure that communication is secure and that HIPPA requirements are met for the privacy and confidentiality of Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids members.

This banner notification is to inform ALL Medicaid/PeachCare for Kids Providers that the Department will allow telehealth services under the following guidance:

- All services must be deemed medically necessary;
- Providers must comply with the provisions outlined in the Telehealth Manual posted on GAMMIS;
- The patient must initiate the service and provide consent to be treated virtually, and the consent must be documented in the medical record with date, time and consenting/responsible party before initiation of the service;
- The codes that will be billed must be identified as “telehealth services” by utilizing a telehealth Place of Service (POS) code and/or a telehealth modifier (e.g., GT). For example, evaluation and management (E/M) codes must have a telehealth Place of Service (POS) code. Other codes may have a modifier. The codes and modifiers are identified in the Telehealth Guidance which is located on the GAMMIS website. Providers may locate the Telehealth Guidance manual by accessing the following link: www.mmis.georgia.gov. Select the “Provider Information” tab, then select “Provider Manuals.” Scroll down to locate the Telehealth/Telemedicine manual; and
- Qualified healthcare providers must continue to comply with state telehealth laws and regulations, including professional licensure, scope of practice, standards of care, patient consent and other payment requirements for Medicaid members.

Home and Community Based Waiver Service Providers:

For Home and Community Based Waiver Providers, initial and annual assessments as well as Level of Care Determinations may be performed via telehealth in lieu of face to face visits. Case management services, nurse supervisory visits, and assessments for home care admissions may also be provided via telehealth.

DCH is reviewing all category of service codes for additional codes that can be included in telehealth reimbursement. MMIS will be modified to include new codes following DCH review. We will post additional information as needed.



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

If you have questions related to the wavier of the originating site requirement the, please contact the DXC Technology Provider Contact Center at 1-800-766-4456 and/or your assigned Provider DXC Representative.

Thank you for your continued participation in the Georgia Medicaid program.