



Board of Education

Karen Etheridge, Chairman Dwan Craft, Vice-Chairman

Kelly Peters Dr. Bill Dobney Janet Rose

Superintendent Dr. Matt Lutz

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: December 10, 2020

RE: Positive School-Affected Cases

Currituck County Schools is sending this release to inform you that (1) laboratory-confirmed positive COVID-19 case has been reported at Griggs Elementary School and (3) laboratory-confirmed cases have been reported at Currituck County High School. Following the guidance established by NCDHHS, Currituck County Schools has notified Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) of the positive cases and has initiated contact tracing.

ARHS and Currituck County Schools will follow the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) guidelines on contact tracing of all individuals who may have had close contact with a positive case. **Close contacts are defined as being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes (cumulative), of a confirmed case patient.**

At the time of this release, all close contacts identified have been notified by Currituck County Schools.

When close contacts are identified, Albemarle Regional Health Services works with the patient and the school system to ensure all contacts are properly notified in a timely manner. Currituck County Schools and Albemarle Regional Health Services will adhere to the following:

- Local health department staff will contact the confirmed case patient and determine all people that patient has been in close contact with during the period they are contagious. Close contacts are defined as being within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes (cumulative), of a confirmed case patient. Caregivers and household members are considered close contact.
- Only those who had close contact with the confirmed case patient during the period they were contagious (defined as the date the patient developed symptoms up to the time the patient went into isolation) are notified.
- Local health department staff will instruct the contact to monitor for symptoms twice a day for 14 days from the date of last contact with the confirmed case patient or for 14 days after the confirmed case patient's isolation ends if in continued contact throughout their illness (household members, care-givers).

Currituck County Schools understands the importance of communication, while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with FERPA, NCGS § 130A-143, and all other state and federal laws. We look forward to working together to serve our children's health, safety, and academic needs.