



## Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School

80 Locust Street  
Northampton, MA 01060-2094  
Telephone (413) 587-1414

Dr. Andrew H. Linkenhoker  
Superintendent

[www.smithtec.org](http://www.smithtec.org)



October 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

I am writing to inform you that a person in our school community has tested positive for COVID-19. Although we cannot provide specific information to you about our school community member who tested positive, we wanted to let you know that a review for potential close contacts based on COVID guidelines has been conducted and we have identified those students or staff privately that were in close contact with this community member while at school. A close contact is defined by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health as being within 6 feet of the affected person for at least 15 minutes while the person was infectious. ***If you have not been contacted then you are not considered a close contact and no further action is needed.***

Our first responsibility is to keep our students and staff safe by following our comprehensive plan in place to regularly sanitize the school and to follow all health and safety protocols set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Our student body and staff have been adhering to the safety protocols including mask wearing, hand washing, and physical distancing. We are grateful to our families for their continued efforts to keep students home at the first sign of symptoms. These measures, taken in combination, greatly reduce the risk of additional transmission. We ask that parents/guardians whose students are tested for COVID-19, please report the results to our school nurse.

The single most important thing to do if any of the following symptoms are present in your student is to keep them home. Our collective health relies, in part, on individual attention and responsibility. Note that some symptoms of COVID-19 are the same as the flu or a bad cold; please do not assume it is another condition. When in doubt, keep your student home if they have any of the following symptoms and communicate with our nursing team at 413.587.1414 x3411.

- ☐ Fever (100.4° Fahrenheit or higher), chills, or shaking chills
- ☐ Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough)
- ☐ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- ☐ New loss of taste or smell
- ☐ Sore throat
- ☐ Headache when in combination with other symptoms
- ☐ Muscle aches or body aches
- ☐ Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea
- ☐ Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- ☐ Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other known causes, such as allergies) when in combination with other symptoms

For more information on COVID-19 symptoms and testing, visit:

[https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?-.  
95febf13.](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/about-covid-19-testing#where-can-get-a-test?-.)

You can also find a map of testing sites at:

[https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095febf13.](https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=eba3f0395451430b9f631cb095febf13)

Please contact us immediately should your student or someone in your home begin to show symptoms.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A. Linkenhoker".

Andrew H. Linkenhoker, Ed.D  
Superintendent

*Founded in 1844 by Oliver Smith*

*Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity, disability, homelessness, religion or sexual orientation.*