



Hamburg Central
School District

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

Administration Building

5305 Abbott Rd.

Hamburg, NY 14075-1699

Telephone: (716) 646-3200 x 7220 FAX: (716) 646-3209

March 19, 2020

Dear Hamburg Central School District Families,

Today, during the County Executive's press conference, it was announced that there was a positive case of COVID19 at Hamburg High School. After hearing this news, I put in a call to the Erie County Health Department to confirm the positive test and they were able to do so.

During that phone call, the folks at the Erie County Health Department directed me to inform the community of the following:

- There is a “very low risk that you were exposed at Hamburg High School. If you are well and without symptoms, testing you for COVID-19 at this time would not be clinically useful. The reason for this is that the virus may incubate in your body for up to 14 days and likely would not be detectable until symptoms appear. Please monitor yourself closely for any symptoms, including doing temperature checks, and if any symptoms develop, stay away from others and contact your healthcare provider”
- The 14-day incubation period “expires on March 23, which is this Monday”
- They wanted you to know that they have detailed and updated information on their web site, www.erie.gov/covid19. They are telling people who have been at this location that “there is not a need to call their Information Line, but to monitor for symptoms as above”
- Finally, they stated that the Department of Health is reaching out directly "to anyone who had close contact with the person" and that this process is “ongoing”

The Health Department was not able to disclose any information about the person who tested positive other than to say that the person was at the high school all day on March 9, 2020.

I know that many of you will be concerned by the delay in this notification from me to you. I was not notified by the Erie County Department of Health in advance of their public notification. It took several minutes to actually speak to someone who could advise me regarding exactly what information to communicate to all of you.

Importantly, as of yesterday, the high school was completely cleaned, sanitized, and sealed, according to our Continuity of Services Plan. I'd also like to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of maintaining our social distancing practices, which includes keeping your children away from gatherings of other children for the time being.

On behalf of our entire community, we all wish this particular person, and all who have tested positive for COVID19, a full recovery.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Cornell
Superintendent of Schools