



**Office of the Superintendent
New Milford Public Schools
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**For Immediate Release
September 10, 2020**

Message from Dr. Paul Smotas, Interim Superintendent for New Milford Public Schools

On Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at approximately 4:30 p.m. we were made aware of a social media post which identified one of our residents as testing positive for the coronavirus. We then sought to confirm if that resident was a member of our school community.

We did confirm that the resident was a member of our New Milford Public School (NMPS) community. That confirmation then triggered our protocols recommended by the CDC and Connecticut Public Health Department.

1. We notified the New Milford Health Department (NMDPH) officials.
2. In concert with the NMDPH, we quickly determined that there were multiple potential contact points which needed to be retraced.
3. A risk assessment was begun by NMDPH and NMPS.
4. Following CDC, DPH and Connecticut State Department of Education guidelines, the Superintendent of Schools determined that schools must be closed for a minimum of 2-5 days to clean, disinfect and contact trace.
5. Due to the multiple schools, staff members, bus company employees and students involved, it will take numerous hours or days to complete contact tracing in collaboration with NMDPH.
6. Education is continuing throughout the New Milford Public Schools via remote connections for the days that school is closed.
7. We anticipate completion of the contact tracing by this weekend.

We fully anticipate and sincerely hope that NMPS will reopen on Monday, September 14, 2020.