



April 26, 2021

Dear SMSD Community:

The health and safety of our students and staff is our top priority. With that in mind, the purpose of this letter is to inform you that we just were notified of an individual at St. Mary's School for the Deaf who may be positive for COVID-19.

The Erie County Department of Health (DOH) has been notified and is taking further steps. The affected individual has been isolated and the DOH is identifying and contacting those individuals identified as close contacts by the DOH.

In working with the health department, we are taking all the recommended steps to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Steps we are implementing in cooperation with the DOH include the following:

- As a result of initial precaution, contact tracing efforts and Erie County Department of Health guidance, several students will be isolated and sent home today to await further instruction. All staff will remain on campus unless they have heard otherwise from your supervisor.
- This individual and any individuals identified by the Erie County Department of Health as being close contacts have already been informed and are expected to follow the ECDOH's quarantine/isolation guidelines as directed by the ECDOH.

St. Mary's School for the Deaf cannot release any further details due to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Health Insurance Portability & Accounting Act (HIPAA) requirements. Please continue to monitor your child for symptoms and have him/her stay home if they are sick. In addition, please contact your child's healthcare provider if they develop symptoms or if you have any additional questions or concerns. More information on the symptoms of COVID-19 can be found at <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home> or on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>.

If you have questions regarding the information in this letter, please do not hesitate to either one of us, or SMSD's Safety Coordinator, Richard Szafranek (at (716) 834-7200 Ext. 169 or richards@smsdk12.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy M. Kelly".

Timothy M. Kelly
Superintendent