



St. Mary's School for the Deaf is committed to providing equitable access to exemplary educational programs that prepare deaf students to be self-directed, lifelong learners, who are productive members of society.

January 11, 2021

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

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 an individual at St. Mary's School for the Deaf, last present on Friday, January 8th, has tested 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 MS/HS students will be directed to quarantine for 14 days. All secondary students except the SNAP class will learn remotely tomorrow and Tuesday until we learn more from the Department of Health. All staff should report to campus unless they have heard otherwise from your supervisor.
 - **UPDATE 1/11/2021 9:30AM:** We just received guidance from the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH). ALL students are able to return to campus tomorrow, January 12th, 2021. We made the decision last night to keep them home today (and initially tomorrow so families could plan, just in case) in an over-abundance of caution. The ECDOH confirmed this morning that all students and staff (with the exception of those already informed regarding quarantine or isolation) are able to return to campus.

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