



Waterford Township
School District

Brenda Haring, EdD/CI
Superintendent

Daniel J. Fox, CPA
Assistant Superintendent for Business

Julie C. Lyons
Director of Elementary Education

May 10, 2021

Dear Waterford Township School Community,

On Thursday, May 6th, our district had an unfortunate incident whereby employees experienced symptoms of a foodborne illness after attending a luncheon catered by an outside vendor. More than 60% of our staff members that participated in the luncheon became ill and are continuing to recover. Due to the district's inability to properly staff the building today, we switched to an asynchronous day of instruction.

We reported this incident to the Camden County Department of Health and the Waterford Township Police Department to investigate further. Although the exact pathogen is still unknown at this time, we have been advised by the Camden County Department of Health that the suspected pathogens could be highly contagious. **Per the recommendation of our district physician, and for the health and safety of our entire school community, all school buildings will be closed for two weeks.** We expect to reopen the buildings on Monday, May 24th. During this time, a thorough cleaning and sanitization process will be completed to help stop the spread of any foodborne germs and illnesses.

The District will operate with an asynchronous day tomorrow, Tuesday, May 11th. Our teaching staff will push out instructional activities to be completed during the asynchronous day. You can also access those activities by [clicking here](#). On Tuesday, we will provide you with additional instructional information for Wednesday, May 12th - Friday, May 21st.

Common symptoms of foodborne diseases are nausea, vomiting, stomach cramps, and diarrhea. However, symptoms may differ among the different types of foodborne diseases. To learn more, click [here](#) for information about foodborne germs and illnesses from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If you have any specific concerns, please contact the school nurse or your child's pediatrician.

I recognize that last-minute changes to our schedule can be problematic for some families. However, our top priority is always the health and well-being of our staff and students. I will share updates regarding this matter as new information becomes available. As always, I appreciate your continued support and flexibility during yet another challenging time.

Respectfully,

Dr. Brenda Haring, EdD/CI
Superintendent, Waterford Township School District