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DCRSD Update 10.26.2020

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>
To: Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>

Mon, Oct 26, 2020 at 1:19 PM

All,

We have been preparing for this type of scenario and it is my hope that our Dudley-Charlton community is prepared as well.

With that said, I am writing as we learned today that we have an active positive COVID-19 case with a bus driver. The bus driver's routes are in Charlton only. The bus driver did not drive students today. We are working closely with our transportation vendor, First Student, and the Charlton Health Director.

We know that many parents, caregivers and staff will ask if we can publicly release the bus driver's name who tested positive for COVID-19 and the affected bus number. However, due to the privacy mandates set forth in HIPPA, we are unable to provide information which could lead to the disclosure of the identity of any individual employee, bus driver or student who has tested positive for COVID-19. While we want to keep you informed, we cannot do so at the expense of the privacy and rights of an infected individual. We ask for your deference in this and potential future positive COVID-19 cases in the Dudley-Charlton RSD.

Please note that First Student has taken precautions to ensure mitigating strategies are followed. The drivers wear masks and the buses are cleaned between runs and disinfected nightly. The drivers continue to introduce natural air through roof vents and some open windows. All students are required to wear a mask while riding the bus.

Additionally, as we continue to work with our Boards of Health, the information we will provide is that of close contacts to a positive COVID-19 case. A close contact is identified as an individual who was within six feet of the positive COVID-19 for at least 15 minutes two days prior to a positive COVID-19 result. While we are confident that none of the students loading or disembarking the school bus were within six feet for 15 minutes or more, First Student is reviewing the video tapes from the bus.

Lastly, our student body and staff have been closely adhering to the mitigating strategies to include mask wearing, hand washing, and physical distancing. We are grateful to our families for their continued efforts to keep students' home at the first sign of symptoms. These measures, taken in combination, greatly reduce the risk of transmission and proved longevity for in-person learning.

Respectfully,

Steven M. Lamarche