



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Oct. 9, 2020

Individuals Test Positive for COVID-19 at HCHS and HCES

On Thursday afternoon, October 8, 2020, the Florida Department of Health in Hamilton County (DOH-Hamilton) was notified of a positive case of COVID-19 in one individual at Hamilton County High School and one individual at Hamilton County Elementary School. Any children or staff members who were possibly exposed to COVID-19 will be notified by the Hamilton Department of Health to quarantine at home for a specified number of days from their last day of attendance at the school or in close contact with the positive individual in accordance with CDC guidelines and school board protocols. Only those individuals notified by the Department of Health would need to take any further action.

Superintendent of Schools Rex Mitchell stated “I know this causes stress on individuals due to the report of a positive individual. However, every step of our process should we have a positive case was followed and executed as planned. We will activate the protocol of notification to all staff and students with follow up from the local department of health for those individuals who will need to take further action.” Superintendent Mitchell went on to say “I will follow the recommendations of the department of health to ensure all our staff and students remain safe from this virus. It is very inconvenient for parents to have children sent home as well as staff members who are required to leave the campus. However, if we do not follow the protocols that we have concerning the appropriate processes to follow once there is an exposure, we are opening the door for a much larger impacted group of individuals.”

The Florida Department of Health in Hamilton County continues to work with the Hamilton County School District to maintain a safe, healthy learning environment for all students and staff in Hamilton County.