



Mary Beth Hill <mbhill@lexington1.net>

DHEC's new website and a Lexington District One parent communication guide

1 message

Mary Beth Hill, Chief Communications Officer <mbhill@lexington1.net>

Tue, Sep 8, 2020 at 5:30 PM

Reply-To: mbhill@lexington1.net

To: mbhill@lexington1.net

September 8, 2020

Dear Lexington District One Family:

On Friday, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control began reporting cumulative 30-day counts of known positive COVID-19 cases of kindergarten through grade 12 students and staff by school on a webpage. They continue to make corrections to the page, and today they updated their information.

The page exists on DHEC's Schools and Childcare Centers (COVID-19) website and is located here at <https://scdhec.gov/covid-19-cases-associated-staff-students>.

The numbers on this page come from reports of known positive cases that DHEC receives from local health care providers and school nurses. After DHEC gets this information, they independently verify each reported case before posting on this page. According to a note at the bottom of the page in these counts, they report "individuals who attended school or school-sponsored activities during their infectious period."

Once you choose our district in the drop-down menu called "Select School District," you will note that the big blue banner at the top of the page lists statewide numbers for cases among students, cases among school employees, and cases associated with schools. Those are not our district's numbers.

You can find DHEC verified numbers for our district in two ways. You can hover over each blue dot on the map. Or, you can scroll through the list of schools at the bottom of the page.

There are some errors in the list of Lexington District One schools that we are working to correct. For instance, with the opening of Centerville Elementary School, there is no Gilbert Primary School in our district any longer. That building is now Gilbert Elementary.

Also, it appears that some private schools (Columbia Adventist Academy and Heritage Christian Academy) are appearing on our district's list. However, we do not have any relationship, partnership, etc. with them.

You will note that some schools show a "<5 or less than five" note. DHEC is doing that to make sure that it does not violate FERPA or HIPAA laws about personally identifiable information. What that means is that the school has less than five cases. If they say one case, for instance, they could indirectly identify the individual, which would be illegal.

Here are some things to remember.

- Just because a "case" is reported at a school does not mean they ever came to school sick or contracted the virus at school.
- Students and staff could contract the virus outside of school.
- All employees and students are self-screening each morning before deciding to come to school.
- We are working very hard to ensure that our schools and other facilities are clean, sanitized, and safe for our students and staff.
- All individuals are wearing masks and social distancing.

I am also providing you with a link to a COVID-19 Parent/Guardian Communication Guide. This guide explains how we will communicate with you in COVID-19 related situations. You can find it here <http://bit.ly/ParentGuardianCommunication>.

Thanks for all you do every day for your children. We will continue to do everything we can to keep them safe.

Sincerely,

9/8/2020

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Mary Beth Hill, Chief Communications Officer

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