



Thomas P. Hughes School

News for Families

November 20, 2020

- It's almost time for our favorite charity collection of the year! Please click [here](#) for information on our collaborative effort with Cherished Creations to collect holiday toys for children in need.
- A former Hughes student has organized a Holiday Food Drive. Please see this [flyer](#) for details. The collection will run through December 12. Thank you in advance for any donations!
- On days your child will be physically present at school, kindly remember to complete the Covid Screening form prior to 7:45 am.
- Flyers for community based events can be found on the district website. [This](#) is the link.
- Information from the Union County Health Department:

Parents of a School-aged Child with a Positive COVID-19 Test: Instructions & Next Steps

1. Request laboratory results from your physician/clinic indicating that your child is positive. It is important that the date the specimen was collected, the type of test (rapid antigen or RT-PCR), and the name of the laboratory testing the specimen are listed on this report.
2. Please call the school attendance office and notify them that your child will be unable to attend school because they have tested positive for COVID-19. It is important that the school is aware of your status so they could assist the local health department with identifying close contacts such as teachers, students in the class, and other personnel if the child is involved in additional activities.
3. Please call the Union County Office of Health Management at 908-518-5620 and provide a copy of your laboratory results to them so your child's information may be entered into the reporting system in a timely fashion.
4. Your family will then be called by a Case Investigator. This process may take anywhere from 45 minutes to an hour and a half. The Case Investigator will ask personal information such as your name, address, date of birth, gender, your health care provider, current living situation, number of people in your household, any symptoms, pre-existing conditions, occupation,

activities and contact information for any “close contacts.” Therefore, as soon as you test positive, start thinking of your whereabouts in the last 2 weeks.

Close contacts are anyone who was within 6 feet of you, for more than 15 minutes cumulatively or in multiple times within the past 24 hours.

5. A contact tracer will then call your contacts and ask them similar demographic questions as well as information on how they can protect themselves and their loved ones; for example:

- Understanding their risk

- How they can monitor for illness

- How to prevent spreading the virus (even if they do not feel ill)

- Local support services

For the next 14 days, contacts will receive follow-ups, either through text messaging or phone calls, to monitor their health and further connect them with the support and resources they may need. Contact tracers will collect minimum data (only what is needed to keep your close contacts safe), use it for limited purposes (stopping the spread of COVID-19), and restrict who it is shared with.

