

# UNIONTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**Superintendent**  
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**Board Secretary**  
Ext. 1606

Donald M. Gmitter  
School Police/Truancy Officer/  
Homeless Liaison  
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January 7, 2022

Dear Benjamin Franklin School Community:

The district was alerted today that five individuals at Benjamin Franklin school recently tested positive for COVID-19. These individuals last know dates on campus were January 3rd, January 4<sup>th</sup>, and January 7<sup>th</sup>.

Following the guidance provided by the Department of Health, the district is working to complete the contact tracing measures to identify close contacts (defined as an individual who was within 6 feet or less of an infectious person for at least 15 minutes or longer or who was directly exposed to respiratory secretions [e.g., cough or sneeze]).

As per the Department of Health's revised guidance for contact tracing, any individual who has been identified as a close contact will be directly notified by your child's building principal. If you do not receive that notification, your student is not a close contact and does not need to quarantine. However, the DOH recommends that you continue to monitor your child each day for symptoms. If your child develops COVID-19 symptoms, the DOH suggests you do the following:

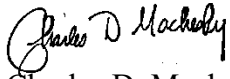
1. Contact their health care provider immediately
2. Follow testing and isolation instructions described at [Symptoms & Testing \(pa.gov\)](#) and at [Overview of COVID-19 Isolation for K-12 Schools](#); and
3. Notify the school if your child tests positive for COVID-19.

In full compliance with HIPAA confidentiality laws, UASD will not release any further information including any identifiable information pertaining to any individual including name, gender, class, or grade when cases arise. We ask that you respect the individual's privacy and not request such information.

The health and safety of our students and staff remain our top priority. We will remain committed to keeping all members of our school community informed to ensure a safe and secure environment for all.

Please visit the Pennsylvania Department of Health website ([www.health.pa.gov](http://www.health.pa.gov)) for the latest and most accurate information about COVID-19. If you have any questions or concerns, you should contact the DOH by calling 1-877-PA-HEALTH.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles D. Machesky". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Charles D. Machesky Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools