

St. Mary's County Public Schools Holds Off Return Of Students After Employees Test Positive for COVID-19

Posted by [TBN\(Staff\)](#) On 09/16/2020

St. Mary's County Public Schools have put a hold on the return of students back to school due to a covid-19 outbreak with faculty and staff in multiple schools.

LEONARDTOWN, Md. – On Monday, September 14, 2020, St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) was notified of an employee at George Washington Carver Elementary School (GWCES) who tested positive for COVID-19 as a result of participating in a non-school related social event outside of St. Mary's County.

Through the process of contact tracing, and in coordination with the St. Mary's County Health Department (SMCHD), several employees at multiple sites who attended the event and others considered close contacts were placed under quarantine and sent for testing. Testing revealed that additional school system employees who participated in the social event were positive for COVID-19. As a result, GWCES will be closed for all staff through Friday, September 18, 2020.

This decision was made in full consultation with local public health officials. As a further precaution, SMCPS will begin immediate mitigation efforts for the school building to include extensive cleaning. Food and meal services at GWCES will also be closed through Friday.

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