

February 24, 2021

Dear Ludlow-Taylor Parents and Families,

Keeping you informed about issues that impact our school community is critical for maintaining trust. As we have learned more about the disruptions in the testing cycle over the past week, I am writing with an additional update to the communication that was shared with you on Monday, regarding asymptomatic at-school testing that took place at Ludlow-Taylor on Friday, February 12.

Previously, we shared with you that the test samples collected that day had been delayed in transit and therefore must be discarded. Today, we learned that while those samples were intended to be disposed of, they were inadvertently picked up by a courier and transferred to the lab for analysis. As a result, families of students who were tested on February 12 may receive communication from Curative indicating results. **Per standard lab testing protocol, given the time that had lapsed, the samples were no longer viable and should not have been tested. This means the test results provided are considered abnormal and should be disregarded.**

However, out of an abundance of caution, we will begin standard COVID-19 response protocols for abnormal positive test results received until those individual(s) are re-tested. Persons for whom we know were in close contact with a potentially positive individual have already been notified directly and provided guidance based on DC Health and CDC guidelines.

We have also confirmed with our public health partners that additional DC Health testing staff will be at Ludlow-Taylor tomorrow, February 25 to conduct asymptomatic at-school testing for any remaining students who have not yet been tested or retested.

We sincerely apologize for the confusion caused by this disruption in asymptomatic testing operations. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at the COVID-19 Safety Hotline at (202) 442-5656 or by email at DCPS.CovidSafety@k12.dc.gov.

Sincerely,

Bren Elliott, Ed. D.

Chief of School Improvement and Supports

DC Public Schools