# RCSD school closes temporarily after 8 positive COVID cases

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The Rochester City School District has closed School 29 for the rest of the week after eight employees at the school tested positive for COVID-19.

Classes will be virtual for the remainder of the week.

According to the district, eight COVID-19 cases have been reported at the school at 88 Kirkland Road in the last month, including three employees who reported testing positive on Tuesday. Those three were last on school property on Feb. 12, before the winter break.

Four of the eight employees already finished their isolation period and the others will complete their isolation period by the end of the week, School 29 Principal Joseph Baldino said in a letter sent to families and staff on Tuesday.

District officials confirmed that a custodian at the school has died, but declined to share further details "out of respect for the individual's/family's privacy," said district spokesman Brendan O'Riordan.

Dan DiClemente, president of BENTE, the district's support staff union, also confirmed the death and said that "he was a hard worker and a person who was loved by everyone who knew him."

DiClemente said he could not confirm the employee's cause of death.

Baldino said that "out of an abundance of caution and care, we have decided to close our building and have all learning take place remotely for the remainder of the week." The closure, he said, will allow the Monroe County Department of Public Health additional time to complete contact tracing and for the district to thoroughly clean and disinfect the building.

Families and staff who wish to be tested for COVID-19 can do so on Thursday and Friday at the Wilson Foundation at the SWAN Entrance, 200 Genesee St., between 9 a.m. and noon.

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