



Coffee County Board of Education

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Superintendent

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PRESS RELEASE
August 16, 2019

On Thursday August 15, 2019 we were alerted that several students in physical education class at New Brockton High School were exhibiting signs of headaches, dizziness, nausea and other symptoms of possible heat related issues. These students were evaluated by the school nurse and transported to Enterprise Medical Center for further evaluation. When notified by emergency room officials of students' elevated levels of carbon monoxide, the gym was immediately evacuated and closed. The Southeast Gas Company, Coffee County EMA, New Brockton Police Dept. and the New Brockton Fire Dept. were contacted to provide assistance in identifying possible causes of these symptoms. Those students transported to the hospital were released by emergency medical staff yesterday afternoon. All other students that were in the gym during that time were evaluated by school nursing staff prior to leaving campus without similar symptoms.

Last night, more New Brockton High School students were transported by private vehicle to the Enterprise Medical Center exhibiting similar symptoms as those during the school day. Those students were evaluated, treated and released by emergency room personnel. As a precautionary measure, it was decided to close both New Brockton High School and New Brockton Elementary School until further testing could be completed.

Results of an overnight inspection were negative. This morning, we were assisted by additional agencies (Ft. Rucker Fire Dept., Enterprise Fire Dept., Coffee County Sheriff's Dept. and Alabama Dept. of Public Health) in the search for answers to why our students developed these symptoms. After another thorough inspection of the school and buses, no indication of carbon monoxide was detected or any other gases that could be harmful to our students and staff. Further testing will be conducted this weekend to ensure further safety precautions have been taken. Any additional testing required will be completed as recommended by those agencies assisting us. It is the opinion of all agencies involved that New Brockton High School is safe.

If your child has exhibited any of these symptoms, please contact New Brockton High School or the Coffee County Board of Education at (334) 894-2350 or (334) 897-5016.

The plan right now is to resume classes as normal on Monday morning (August 19, 2019). Beyond what has been posted, reported or stated, our number one priority is the safety and welfare of our students and staff. The Coffee County School Board, Coffee County School's administration and staff will always put student safety first.

Sincerely,

Kevin Killingsworth
Superintendent, Coffee County Schools

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