



January 18, 2022

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The New Jersey Department of Health has again revised its guidelines for COVID-19 quarantine periods and exclusions from school. The department is now recommending shorter quarantine periods to focus on the period when a person is most infectious. This shorter quarantine period is followed by a period of stricter masking requirements. If an individual is unable to wear a mask they will continue to be quarantined for 10 days. Note, these guidelines do not apply to preschool/prekindergarten settings.

Student Tests Positive for COVID-19 or has COVID-19 Compatible Symptoms

- Student is excluded from school for 5 days after the onset of symptoms or if asymptomatic after the positive test date (day of symptoms is day 0; if asymptomatic, day the test was performed is day 0).
- If the student has no symptoms or symptoms are resolving after 5 days, the student may return to school, but must wear a mask at school in all settings (recess, gym, outdoors) for an additional 5 days. During days 6-10 the student should only remove their mask when eating in the cafeteria. The student's seat may be adjusted during this time period to provide greater distance between the student returning from quarantine and other students. Students returning from quarantine during days 6-10 would not be able to participate in co-curricular activities such as band as masking is required.
- Students that are not able to follow the additional masking requirements for days 6-10 must remain at home to complete their quarantine period.
- The school nurse will provide the student with a return to school date.
- Students will be provided access to livestream class lessons during the quarantine period, up to 10 days. Please note, staff may need time to set up the livestream information for the student. Generally livestreaming is set up for the student 1 day after notification of the quarantine period.

Student is a Close Contact of a COVID-19 Positive Individual

- If the student is fully vaccinated, the student does not need to quarantine unless they are experiencing symptoms.
- If the student has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days, the student does not need to quarantine. The student must have a documented viral test result.
- If the student is not fully vaccinated and/or does not have a documented COVID-19 test result in the past 90 days, the student is excluded from school for 5 days. If symptoms develop, the student should isolate.
- If the student is not fully vaccinated, the student must wear a mask in all settings (recess, gym, outdoors) during days 6-10. The student should only remove their mask when eating in the cafeteria. The student's seat may be adjusted during this time period to provide greater distance between the student returning from quarantine and other students. Students returning from quarantine during days 6-10 would not be able to participate in co-curricular activities such as band as masking is required.
- If the close contact is a member of the student's household, the quarantine period will be longer.

- The school nurse will provide the student with a return to school date.
- Students will be provided access to livestream class lessons during the quarantine period, up to 10 days. Please note, staff may need time to set up the livestream information for the student. Generally livestreaming is set up for the student 1 day after notification of the quarantine period.

The changes in the New Jersey Health Department's COVID-19 quarantine periods have been developed to try to return students to the classroom as quickly and safely as possible. For these guidelines to be effective, the district needs your continued support in following all guidelines. Please understand that if your student is returning to school on days 6-10 of the quarantine period, they must keep their mask on at all times (except when eating in the cafeteria). If this additional masking requirement is difficult for your child, we ask that they remain home for the full 10 day quarantine period.

Please note, the school nurses are trying to implement guidelines that are constantly changing while continuing to keep all of our staff and students safe. They will reach out to families and provide quarantine / return to school dates as quickly as possible, but it takes time to determine the individual circumstances of each case.

Sincerely,

Keith Neuhs
Superintendent