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December 2, 2021

Dear Flemington-Raritan Regional School District Parents, Faculty, Staff, and Community Members,

Today we received notice from the <u>New Jersey Department of Health</u> that our region for a COVID-19 level is in the "orange-high risk" exclusion criteria. When our region is in the "High" level, or "orange" rating, exposed close contacts who are not fully vaccinated will be excluded from school for 14 days. Today's notification of the "orange-high risk" is a change from last week's rating of "moderate" or "yellow" range. In the "moderate-yellow risk" range exposed close contacts who are not fully vaccinated were excluded from school for 10 days, or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days. This is not the case when we are in the "orange-high risk" setting.

Our district must follow the COVID-19 exclusion criteria and work with our local health department to identify and exclude close contacts according to the CDC guidance according to <u>state recommendations</u>. We are required to complete contact tracing and exclude individuals reporting COVID-19 symptoms. Additionally, close contacts of a symptomatic individual will need to be excluded from school. Virtual instruction is available for quarantined students.

The Department of Health guidance specifically states that close contacts of a student who has symptoms and meets COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria should be excluded from school from the date of last contact. The District follows the New Jersey Department of Health steps for determining close contact and quarantine in K-12 schools. Guidance from the school nurses and our local DOH will be provided to those that are exposed or need to be excluded from school.

The District is closely monitoring conditions. If our area remains within the "orange" level over the next two weeks, it may become necessary to modify or cancel indoor events and activities. We ask our Flemington-Raritan community members to remain vigilant. It is imperative that masks are worn indoors, that proper hand washing continues to take place, and that vaccinations and/or weekly testing is completed by our employees and volunteers as required.

Parents, we need your help. Please do not send your child into school if you have given fever-reducing medication or if your child is symptomatic with COVID-19 symptoms. If it is confirmed that a symptomatic child is present in school, the district may need to send multiple students and the teacher(s) home to quarantine. COVID-19 has the following symptoms: fever (temperature of 100.4 or greater) or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, a new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea.

If children experience any of these symptoms, they must stay home from school. If you have any questions about symptoms or any other concerns for you or your child, please consult your physician or one of our school nurses.

Wishing you good health,

Dr. Kari McGann

Kari McGann

Superintendent of Schools