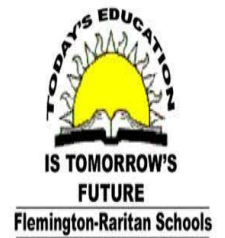


Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
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December 15, 2021

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

As I reported in my [letter to parents last week](#), I shared that we received notice from the Hunterdon County Department of Health that our region was in the “High” or “orange” range. As a result of the “orange” status our district has had to quarantine students due to exposure to COVID-19. As of Friday, December 10, the District had 155 students, or 5% of our students, quarantined from school. This week we have had even more students quarantined as a result of exposure to another individual for COVID-19.

As the Superintendent of Schools I have advocated for our students in conversations with local and State legislators. I have requested for students to be able to remain in school through a “test-to-stay” program and/or to reduce the number of days for students to quarantine when our region is in the “orange.” I was told there is no movement on this yet by the Department of Health or State Legislators.

My request to the New Jersey Department of Health and our Governor’s Office is to reduce quarantine times for areas of “High” transmission. Specifically, while our region is in the “orange” I want quarantine to be reduced from 14 days to 10 days. Furthermore, I want students to be able to receive clearance to return to school after illness due to an alternative diagnosis by a medical clinician. I have not received the clearance to do this yet. I continue to strongly advocate for our students to our health officials and legislators and all who will listen to my call for action. Just today I spoke with members of the press, representatives from the New Jersey Association of School Superintendents, and superintendents from throughout New Jersey.

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 and according to [state recommendations](#). We are required to complete contact tracing and exclude individuals reporting COVID-19 symptoms.

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.

I am hopeful that updated guidance will be received from the local health department in the next few days. As soon as this guidance is received I will notify our community and bring students safely back to school as quickly as possible following updated health and safety protocols.

Always working for what is best for kids,

Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools