

December 31, 2021

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

As communicated in the [December 21st letter](#) to our community, students, faculty, and staff are scheduled to return on January 3, 2022. The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District remains committed to our in-person teaching and learning. We look forward to seeing our students, staff, and faculty in person for a full day of learning on Monday, January 3, 2022.

### **Updated CDC Quarantine Guidance:**

You may have read that the CDC provided new guidance and reduced the number of days to quarantine after exposure to COVID-19. However, guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) is that schools are not *yet* to adopt the CDC's recommendation to shorten quarantine time. When the guidance changes for schools, I will notify our community.

Guidance from the NJDOH is for K-12 schools to continue to follow conventional isolation and quarantine timeframes. As explained in my [December 16, 2021 letter](#), quarantine can end after day seven with a negative COVID-19 test result collected between five and seven days of quarantine, or after day 10 if testing has not been performed. We anticipate updated quarantine guidelines from the CDC and the NJDOH soon, but we must continue to follow existing guidelines until that happens.

### **Virtual Instruction:**

Students are only able to participate in class virtually using simulcasted instruction if your child is quarantined but otherwise healthy. The virtual school option ended because Executive Order 175 was rescinded which allowed parents to choose an all-remote option. Due to the Governor's public health emergency ending, virtual school is not an option for students unless they are quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure.

### **Increase of COVID-19 Activity in our Region:**

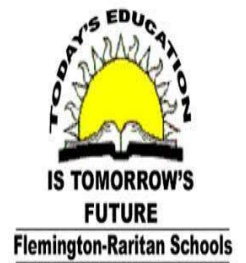
As a response to the increase of COVID-19 activity in our region, the district will eliminate all non-employee visitors into our schools during school hours, with the exception of those that are required for legal purposes. Facility users will not be permitted to use our facilities. Changes may occur to lunchtime routines to allow for additional spacing between students while eating. Building principals will share logistics that may be needed with parents soon. Additional changes and disruptions are possible if case counts continue to remain high. Those changes may include a fully remote day or an early dismissal as we handle increased contact tracing demands or Department of Health recommendations.

### **Keep Students Home if Sick or Exposed:**

Parents, 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. When children come to school that are sick or exposed at home it creates contact tracing requirements which may hinder our ability to offer in-person learning for all students. Please, monitor your child and family members closely for symptoms and do not send your child to school if they have symptoms of COVID-19 or if someone in the household is sick.

COVID-19 has the following symptoms: fever (temperature of 100.4 or greater) or chills, cough, shortness of

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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.

Currently, vaccinations are available for children five years old and up. To find a vaccination clinic visit <https://www.vaccines.gov/>.

We look forward to seeing our students back on January 3, 2022.

Wishing you and your loved ones a happy and healthy 2022,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kari McGann". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Dr. Kari McGann  
Superintendent of Schools