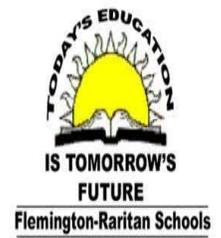


Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
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November 4, 2020

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

*** Updated information is underlined. ***

Today, the Hunterdon County Department of Health (DOH) confirmed six cases of COVID-19 in the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District. One case is an employee at Copper Hill School who was last in school on Monday, November 2. The other five cases are students. Two students are at Francis A. Desmares School and were not in school this week or last week. The other three are at J.P. Case Middle School. One of the three students is a fully remote student. None of the three students were in school for in-person instruction this week or last week.

Today and over the next few days, the DOH will conduct contact tracing to determine those who may have been in close contact and exposed. At this time, using initial guidance from the DOH, we believe Francis A. Desmares School, Copper Hill School and J.P. Case Middle School will be open for students and staff on Monday, November 9, 2020, for those who are not required to quarantine. If future guidance requires Francis A. Desmares School, Copper Hill School or J.P. Case Middle School closures, the district will notify these school communities with a phone call, text message, and email.

We must follow very specific procedures with our partners at the DOH and are not able to share any additional identifying information about any positive cases. The DOH will contact anyone who has been in close contact with an ill person with quarantine instructions within 24 hours. If a student or an employee is given quarantine instructions, the student or the employee will be required to stay home and quarantine for at least 14 days. For students, this means they may not come to school on in-person instruction days during the quarantine period. The student will have access to our remote instruction program during this time.

The Hunterdon County Health Department shared that the contact tracing they are conducting is showing that infections are occurring mostly within the immediate family that lives within the same household, within athletic activities, sleepovers amongst friends, and study groups between students. As we enter the long weekend, we must continue to be vigilant with our health protocols at home and proceed with caution. We want our children to live their lives but do so with extra caution and increased vigilance concerning hygiene precautions, mask-wearing, and social distancing. The CDC recently revised the guidance on exposure and the definition of close contact. Close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolation. It is important to note that the CDC guidance defines individual exposures added together over a 24-hour period (e.g., three 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).

We have set precautions and protocols in place to preserve our in-person instruction for students. The continuation of in-person instruction and the continued health of our entire community requires that everyone take all appropriate masking, distancing, and hygiene precautions at all times, not just while at school. Please review these precautions with your child and with your family: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>.

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, it is critical for them to stay home from school. If you have any questions about symptoms or any other concerns for you or your child, please consult your physician.

Am I at risk?

Guidelines on who should quarantine or isolate for COVID-19
 Close contact - any individual who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes.
 Quarantine - keeping someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others
 Isolation - keeps someone with COVID-19 away from others, even in their own home

Person A - Case

- Person A tested positive for COVID-19
- While infectious, Person A was in close contact with Person B
- Person A must isolate from others until no longer infectious

Person B - Contact of a Case

- Person B is considered a close contact of an infectious COVID-19 person A
- Person B should quarantine (stay at home, practice social distancing and monitor for symptoms) for 14 days

Person C - Contact of a Contact

- Person C was NOT in close contact with infectious Person A
- Unless Person B develops symptoms or tests positive for COVID-19, Person C is not at increased risk
- No special precautions are necessary

You were in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Okay, so **NOW WHAT?**

You must quarantine for 14 days:
 Stay at home, practice social distancing and monitor for symptoms.

During the 14 days:

- If you develop symptoms or test positive - contact your healthcare provider and your local health department.
- If you do not develop symptoms - you can come out of quarantine.

Can I get tested while I'm in quarantine?

Yes but only if you want to or otherwise recommended by your healthcare provider.

Public health officials recommend waiting at least 3-5 days after exposure to be tested for COVID-19.

While in quarantine, I tested negative for COVID-19. Does that mean I can end my quarantine sooner than 14 days?

NO! COVID-19 virus takes an average of 5 days for symptoms to appear but can take up to 14 days so you may get a false negative test result.

The 14 days of quarantine is crucial because even though you may not be experiencing symptoms and have a negative test result, you can still be COVID-19 infected and therefore infectious to others.

Do your part and help reduce the spread of COVID-19:

- Wear a mask
- Maintain social distancing
- If you are in quarantine, STAY in quarantine for the ENTIRE 14 days.

Wishing you good health,
Kari McGann
 Dr. Kari McGann
 Superintendent of Schools