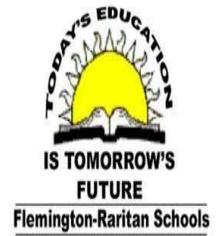


Flemington-Raritan Regional School District  
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January 4, 2021

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

Happy New Year! I am delighted to welcome our students and staff back to school today. I hope that everyone enjoyed Winter Break and had opportunities to rest and relax during the time that school was closed.

With school in session this week, we welcomed Cohort B students back into our buildings today. Everyone is working hard to maintain in-person instruction; however, the District has received notice of five positive COVID-19 cases. Three of the cases are at J.P. Case Middle School; two are students and one is a teacher. The other two cases are at Francis A. Desmares School; one is a student, and one is a teacher. The last day all five were in their respective buildings was December 18. The District is committed to communicating with families information that is confirmed in real-time to the greatest extent possible; therefore, multiple messages will continue to be shared when relevant and necessary.

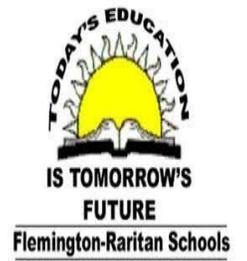
We continue to have multiple students, staff, and faculty quarantined due to the COVID-19 level “orange-high risk” exclusion criteria. Parents should prepare alternative plans in the event that the Department of Health or the health and safety protocols advise an individual(s) to quarantine or be excluded from school. The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District remains committed to our in-person program, but parents should be prepared to pivot to all-remote learning if the district cannot continue in-person instruction per New Jersey DOH and/or NJDOH COVID-19 guidance. 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. In consultation with our local health department and per [state recommendations](#), we are now required to complete contact tracing and exclude individuals reporting COVID-19 symptoms. Close contacts of a symptomatic individual will need to be excluded from school. 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 requirements of the New Jersey Department of Health’s restrictions while operating under the “orange-high risk” category restrict activities and require preventative and control measures.

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 an entire classroom of students and the teacher(s) home to quarantine. It is critical that every staff member and student take all precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The Department of Health guidance specifically states that siblings of a student who has symptoms and meets [COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria](#) should be excluded from school until the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result. If the symptomatic individual tests positive, the sibling will need to also [self-quarantine](#).

To help families that live in Hunterdon County and those that work in Hunterdon County, the County offers a free COVID test. You can find the link [here](#) to order a free COVID-19 test.

COVID-19 has many symptoms, which include: 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. Please continue to make healthy choices that will keep your family and our school community healthy and safe. My best to all of our families, and I hope you are all happy, safe, and healthy.

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Wishing you good health,

*Kari McGann*

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