

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
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January 11, 2021

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

Despite our meticulous efforts to follow all social distancing guidelines and practices, it has been recommended by the Hunterdon County Department of Health that Barley Sheaf Elementary School close for 14 days, effectively immediately, due to the transmission of COVID-19 positive cases. This afternoon the District received another notification of two positive COVID-19 cases of students at Barley Sheaf School. One student was last in the building on January 7 and the other on January 8. We also received notice of a positive case of a district employee who was last on campus on December 23. We anticipate Barley Sheaf School reopening for in-person learning on Tuesday, January 26, with Cohort A students returning to the building on that day.

A temporary closure allows time for the local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school and perform contact tracing. As explained in the [December 11, 2020 letter to parents](#), students in grades K-4 will remain on the same class schedule. The current Week A/Week B rotation will continue uninterrupted for any K-4 building that must pivot to an all-remote learning schedule. At this time, all other schools will remain open for in-person instruction.

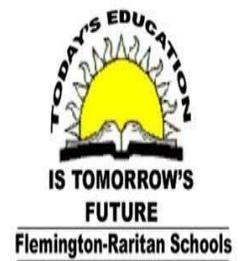
It is important to note, beginning on January 4th, the District has reported a substantial number of positive cases of COVID-19. We continue to be notified of multiple students, staff, and faculty quarantined due to the COVID-19 level “orange-high risk” exclusion criteria. It is increasingly difficult to manage the number of staff, faculty, and students who are required to quarantine and be excluded from school.

Last week’s [COVID-19 CALI Report](#) continued to show Hunterdon County in the “orange,” but this rating is updated each week on Thursdays. If Hunterdon County, which is included in the Central West region of New Jersey on the [COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix](#), activity level is rated in the “red” or “Very High,” the entire district will pivot to all remote learning beginning immediately on the Friday after the report is released.

It is important that staff, students, and faculty stay home if they have:

- ❑ Tested positive (viral test) for COVID-19; for individuals with close contact with a confirmed case, NJDOH continues to recommend a 14-day quarantine. While we remain in the high COVID Activity level, close contacts of positive and students with COVID-like illness should continue to be excluded from school.
- ❑ COVID-19 compatible symptoms 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 or speak with one of our school nurses. In children, signs/symptoms are often mild. For this reason, the New Jersey Department of Health recommends any child with COVID-19 symptoms not return to school until they have received a negative viral test or they have completed an isolation period of at least 10 days since symptom onset and at least 24 hours after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications with symptom improvement. A purely clinical alternative diagnosis is no longer acceptable.
- ❑ Potential exposure to COVID-19 from close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the past 14 days. **If anyone in your household is having symptoms of COVID-19, you need to stay home until that person tests negative or 24 days (10 for that person to become not contagious plus 14 of quarantine from last date person was contagious).**

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- ❑ Engaged in domestic and/or international travel in the past 10 days, unless they are exempt from the quarantine recommendation due to being an essential worker:
 - ❑ [NJ Travel Advisory](#)
 - ❑ As confirmed by the Hunterdon County DOH: *Travelers and residents returning from any U.S. state or territory beyond the immediate region (New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Delaware) should self-quarantine at their home, hotel, or other temporary lodgings following [recommendations from the CDC](#): (Essential employees are excluded from the travel advisory.)*
 - *If travel is unavoidable, travelers should consider getting tested with a viral test (not an antibody test) 1-3 days before the trip and again 3-5 days after the trip.*
 - *If travelers test positive, they should self-isolate for at least ten days and should postpone travel during that time.*
 - *If travelers test negative, they should quarantine for a full seven days after travel.*
 - *If testing is not available (or if the results are delayed), travelers should quarantine for ten days after travel.*
 - ❑ [CDC After You Travel](#).

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.

The District continues to work diligently to keep students, staff, faculty, and our community safe from the spread of COVID-19.

Wishing you good health,

Dr. Kari McGann
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