

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
Dr. Kari McGann
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February 3, 2021

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

The snowy weather over the past 48-hours has been something we haven't witnessed in our area in years. Yesterday and today our buildings and grounds crew, maintenance personnel, and our custodial staff plowed and shoveled snow to prepare our six schools to be ready for Cohort B in-person students to return to campus tomorrow, Thursday, February 4, 2021. Despite three stuck trucks in the snow and six buildings situated on 170 acres, our sidewalks, walkways, and parking lots are cleared. A special "THANK YOU" to our FRSD team for clearing all the snow!

The Transportation Department and Emergency Management Officials surveyed the roads of our Flemington and Raritan communities to make sure roads were ready. School busses have been cleared of snow and we are ready for the return of students tomorrow. The temperatures are expected to dip below freezing tonight and there is a chance of precipitation early this evening. If freezing causes issues in the morning, while not likely, but a possibility, the District will be notified through our emergency management alert system. Parents should consider that "no news is good news." I will be in contact with personnel and transportation in the early morning hours to ensure our facilities and roadways are safe. There are very large snow piles around our community near sidewalks, roadways, and parking lots. Families with children at the bus stop should be extra cautious to make sure that children are safe at their bus stop.

COVID-19 Update:

The district received notice of two positive COVID-19 cases. One is a student at Copper Hill School who was last in the building on January 22. One is a teacher at Barley Sheaf School who was last in the building on January 29. Our District nurses follow all contact tracing guidelines from the Department of Health.

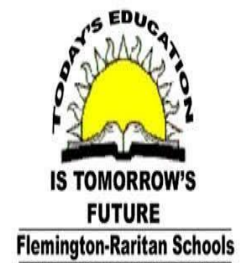
Whenever contact tracing determines that your child or a member of our staff or faculty has been in contact with an ill person, our district nurses will communicate guidance to all those that are determined to need to quarantine. This process starts immediately with the reporting of the case. We continue to have staff, faculty, and students that must quarantine due to positive cases. Please remember to wear a mask, wash your hands, practice social distancing, and follow all health and hygiene recommendations. The goal to keep our school doors open for our community requires that everyone take precautions to slow the spread of COVID-19. We are not able to share any other identifying information about positive cases due to the [Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act \(HIPAA\)](#).

New Recommendations for COVID-19:

The district is now following the most recent recommendations from the New Jersey Department of Health. Updated on January 19, the [COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for K – 12 schools](#) removes the recommendation for schools to exclude close contacts of individuals with COVID-compatible symptoms. While COVID activity in Hunterdon County remains high, schools should continue to exclude staff and students if they have:

- Tested positive (viral test) for COVID-19 - Confirmed cases of COVID-19 should stay home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset and at least 24 hours have passed after the resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms.
- COVID-19 compatible symptoms - All individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms who have not been tested should stay home until at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset and at least 24 hours have passed after the resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms. An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a negative COVID-19 test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school.

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- Potential exposure to COVID-19 from - Close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the past 14 days (exclude for 14 days); engaged in domestic and/or international travel in the past 10 days (exclude in accordance with NJ Travel Recommendations and essential employees).
- 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 is required to self-quarantine.

The Hunterdon County Health Department has updated the *COVID Information Center* website to include the most up to date information on Isolation and Quarantine guidelines, vaccine clinics and availability, testing, and local data and information. View the DOH site for the latest information at <https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/coronavirus.html>. The Department of Health offers these links: <https://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/Coronavirus/clinics.html> and https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_vaccination.shtml for more information.

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. 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.

Wishing you good health,

Dr. Kari McGann
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