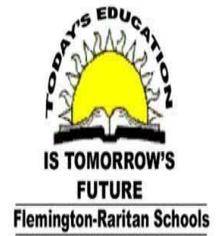


Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
Dr. Kari McGann
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November 16, 2020

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

This weekend I received information from the Hunterdon County Department of Health that there has been a dramatic increase in positive cases of COVID activity in our County. According to the Hunterdon County Health Department, there were 15 cases related to schools during the week of November 2. Last week there were over 25 cases in school-aged children in the county. The Hunterdon County Health Department engages in phone interviews with all those individuals who have come in contact with a potentially COVID-19 exposure. I urge families to cooperate with the Department of Health officials so that contact tracing is accurate and complete. This protects everyone's health and safety. Discussions with the health department staff are confidential. This means that the information you provide will be kept private and only shared with those who may need to know, like your health care provider and our school nurse. Please answer the phone if someone from the county health department calls you; please answer the call to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community.

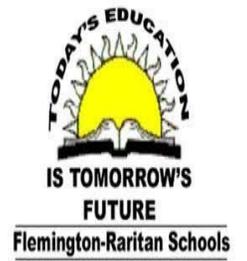
Person-to-person transmission in the County classrooms continues to be rare and the majority of disease transmission is occurring during social gatherings outside of schools. The daily case reports ranged from 22 to 42 cases per day. The DOH reports Hunterdon's 7-day average is 30.8 cases per day, the highest weekly rate of cases to date, surpassing the highest weekly rate in the spring. The Department of Health reports, "Person-to-person transmission in the classroom continues to be rare, and the majority of disease transmission is occurring during social gatherings outside the school and sports." Our schools have exceptional protocols and practices in place to protect our students, staff, and faculty from the transmission of COVID-19. Social distancing between students and the requirement of facial coverings by staff and students while on school grounds are two CDC best practices that all Flemington-Raritan schools have implemented. However, despite these best practices, because of the increased need for contact tracing in the County and the time it takes to reach all involved, **the County has informed us that if a positive case is reported to the school after 5:00 PM, they are recommending automatic remote instruction for the school for the following day.**

We were also informed that if our region moves from moderate to high risk, we should seriously consider implementing fully remote learning. **We will continue to operate under our current model until a time that the Hunterdon County Health Department advises us otherwise.** However, please be aware and prepare for possible immediate change to fully remote instruction for all students as a result of the need for contact tracing or regional high-risk alerts from the Health Department. If an immediate change to fully remote is required information will be delivered as quickly as possible using phone, text, and email. The New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 activity level report will be released for the week ending on Thursday, November 19, 2020. You can find previous COVID-19 reports [here](#).

Our students and staff have had a successful and safe reopening. Please continue to follow strict health and safety guidelines. The daily screening forms are very important for each school to monitor the health and safety of all students, staff, and faculty. Parents are strongly encouraged to complete the screening forms before 7:30 AM for students attending in-person learning at RFIS and J.P. Case Middle School and by 8:00 AM for students attending in-person learning in all elementary schools.

I appreciate everyone's flexibility as we strive to balance the academic and health needs of our students and the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District community.

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Wishing you good health,

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