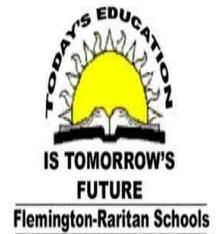


Flemington-Raritan Regional School District  
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November 20, 2020

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

During the past eleven weeks, we have seen Statewide daily cases rise from 284 cases per day to over 4,000 cases. The number of cases across Hunterdon County has triggered a change in the rules that govern how schools respond to the virus for any staff or students who are COVID-19 positive or who have COVID-19 symptoms and have not yet been tested. 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 departments 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 through 14 days from the date of the last contact, or until the symptomatic individual receives an alternate diagnosis or tests negative for COVID-19. As a result, we expect to see a higher level of quarantine reported. 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](#).

The Department of Health classifies the spread of the virus through color-coding. Each Thursday, the Department of Health publishes a report on the [COVID-19 activity level](#) around the state of New Jersey. Yesterday our region moved to an “Orange” level, indicating a high risk of spread. When our region moves from “Yellow” to “Orange,” schools must work with the Department of Health to contact trace all individuals who have certain symptoms, rather than just those individuals who are confirmed or presumed positive for the virus. To conduct contact tracing and keep our school doors open, our school nurses will continue to support the Department of Health in contact tracing both individuals who are confirmed or presumed positive, as well as individuals who have certain symptoms.

In partnership with Hunterdon Central Regional School District and area sending districts, the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District remains committed to our in-person program and believes that in-person instruction benefits outweigh the disruptions posed by unplanned shifts to remote instruction, even if the frequency of those disruptions increase. We are aware that some school districts across the state are moving to remote instruction for extended periods of time, such as between Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. However, the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District has not seen any evidence of the virus spreading on in our schools. Our schools continue to be a safe place to learn and work, and at this time we have no plans for any such prolonged move to remote instruction. However, we do expect that disruptions will occur. The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District will not close our school doors as a preventative measure but will operate to support in-person learning as long as health and safety factors are in place and the District can operate and staff our facilities.

It is important that we all cooperate and take precautions to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in all settings, particularly as the holidays are upon us. Please continue to wash your hands, wear your mask, and follow the CDC guidance. We continue to see an alarming increase in COVID-19 cases throughout our state. Our local Department of Health reports an increase in 911 calls and an uptick in admissions at our local hospital. Your continued adherence and steadfast determination to follow health protocols serve to keep the families of Flemington-Raritan Regional School District safe.

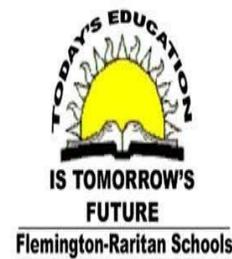
**Survey Feedback:**

Thank you for responding to the survey. There were 1,706 responses from parents. A breakdown is below:

- Barley Sheaf Elementary School - 13.72% of responses, or 234.
- Copper Hill Elementary School - 13.19% of responses, or 225
- Francis A. Desmares Elementary school - 16.30% of responses, or 278.
- Robert Hunter Elementary School - 13.95% of responses, or 238.
- Reading Fleming Intermediate School - 20.93% of responses or 357.
- J. P. Case Middle School - 21.92% of responses or 374.

Please find more survey information at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/stories/SM-SX9G3PHY/>. A Spanish survey was distributed to our non-English-speaking families. This survey remains open to those families for a few more days.

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**Schedule Reminder:** Here's a glance at the district's upcoming schedule:

Date	Grades	Cohort A	Cohort B
November 23-25**	K-8	In-Person	Remote Learning
November 30- December 4	K-8	Remote Learning	In-Person
** School closed for all students and staff on Nov. 26 and 27 for Thanksgiving Break.			
*** Parents who selected all-virtual instruction for their child will continue with all-remote learning. ***			

**Health Screening Reminder:** Please complete the daily screening each morning prior to your child(ren) reporting to school for in-person learning. If a child arrives at school without a completed form, a parent will be contacted and the child will not be permitted to begin in-person learning. Log into the [Parent Portal](#); an alert will pop up, indicating that the Daily COVID Form is required; click on the “Daily COVID Form” to begin; answer all questions honestly and thoroughly.

**Travel:** Please contact your child's school principal if your child has been required to quarantine due to exposure or travel out of New Jersey to a state that is on New Jersey's list of quarantined states. The State of New Jersey issues a travel advisory for people traveling to our state or returning to New Jersey after having visited a location with a significant spread of COVID-19. The travel advisory requires a 14-day quarantine period upon returning to New Jersey. For the most up-to-date listing of those locations, please refer to the State's [FAQ website](#).

**Gatherings:** As Thanksgiving approaches and families consider travel and overnight stays, follow the [CDC's guidance](#) to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. As our region experiences an increase in the number of positive cases, it is critical that we continue to adhere to safety guidelines and minimize exposure. We know that indoor gatherings and large events are the riskiest. If you will be attending an event:

- Prioritize attending outdoor activities over indoor activities and stay within your local area as much as possible.
- Bring supplies to help you and others stay healthy-- for example, masks, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, and drinking water.
- Maintain a distance of at least six feet or more from people who don't live in your household. Be particularly mindful in areas where it may be harder to keep this distance, such as check-in areas, parking lots, and entry/exit.
- Select seating or determine where to stand based on the ability to keep six feet of space from people who don't live in your household, including if you will be eating and drinking.
- Arrive at the event early or at off-peak times to avoid crowding and congested areas.
- Avoid using restrooms facilities or concession stands at high traffic times, such as intermission and half-time.
- Wear a mask when interacting with other people to minimize the risk of transmitting the virus.
- Avoid self-serve food or drink options, such as buffets, salad bars, and drink stations. Use grab-and-go meal options, if available.
- Use disposable food service items including utensils and dishes, if available.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer immediately before eating food or after touching any common surfaces like hand railings, payment kiosks, door handles, and toilets.

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 that you are all happy, safe, and healthy.

### COVID-19 SCHOOL-AGE TUITION ASSISTANCE FOR WORKING FAMILIES

Families can now apply for child care tuition assistance to help with care for children who have remote learning schedules due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.



#### HOW TO APPLY

- Go to [www.ChildCareNJ.gov](http://www.ChildCareNJ.gov) and complete the online application.
- You will need to submit proof of income and a notice or announcement from your child's school of a remote learning schedule including hours.



#### WHO IS ELIGIBLE

- You are a NJ resident with a school-age child 5-13 years old.
- Your household income does not exceed \$150,000 a year.
- Your child is attending school with either a part-time or full-time remote learning schedule.



#### HOW IT WORKS

- Assistance will be paid directly to the licensed child care center you select up to \$634 a month or a registered family child care provider you select up to \$526 a month for full-time care.
- If the assistance doesn't equal the child care provider's rate, the provider may charge you the difference.
- Applications will be considered until funds for this program are exhausted.
- This program ends December 30, 2020.
- For help identifying a child care provider, go to [www.childcarenj.gov/ProviderSearch](http://www.childcarenj.gov/ProviderSearch)



#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit [www.ChildCareNJ.gov](http://www.ChildCareNJ.gov).



State of New Jersey  
 Phil Murphy, Governor | Sheila Oliver, Lt. Governor



Department of Human Services  
 Carole Johnson, Commissioner

### ASISTENCIA DE MATRÍCULA DE EDAD ESCOLAR POR COVID-19 PARA LAS FAMILIAS TRABAJADORAS

Ahora, las familias ya pueden solicitar ayuda para la matrícula de cuidado infantil para niño(a)s que necesitan cuidado debido a los horarios de aprendizaje a distancia, debido a la emergencia de salud pública de COVID-19.



#### ¿CÓMO SOLICITAR?

- Visite la página, [www.ChildCareNJ.gov](http://www.ChildCareNJ.gov) y complete la solicitud en línea.
- Necesitará un comprobante de ingresos y un aviso o anuncio del horario escolar de aprendizaje a distancia de la escuela de su hijo(a).



#### ¿QUIÉN ES ELEGIBLE?

- Ser residente de New Jersey con un niño de edad escolar entre los 5 a 13 años de edad.
- Sus ingresos familiares no superan los \$75,000 dólares al año.
- Su hijo asiste a una escuela con un horario de aprendizaje a distancia a medio tiempo o tiempo completo.



#### ¿CÓMO FUNCIONA?

- La asistencia se pagará directamente al centro de cuidado de niños licenciado que usted seleccione hasta \$634 dólares al mes o un proveedor de cuidado de niños familiar registrado que usted seleccione hasta \$526 al mes, para el cuidado de tiempo completo.
- Si la asistencia no es igual a la tarifa del proveedor de cuidado de niños, el proveedor puede cobrarle la diferencia.
- Las solicitudes se considerarán hasta que se agoten los fondos para este programa.
- Este programa termina el 30 de diciembre 2020.
- Para ayuda encontrando un proveedor de cuidado de niños, visite la página [www.childcarenj.gov/ProviderSearch](http://www.childcarenj.gov/ProviderSearch)



#### PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN

Visite [www.ChildCareNJ.gov](http://www.ChildCareNJ.gov).



Estado de New Jersey  
 Phil Murphy, Gobernador | Sheila Oliver, Vicegobernadora



Departamento de Servicios Humanos  
 Carole Johnson, Comisionada

Wishing you good health,

*Kari McGann*

Dr. Kari McGann  
 Superintendent of Schools