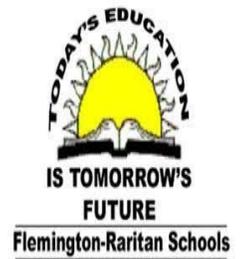


Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
Mrs. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools
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March 23, 2020

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

I regret to inform you that the Hunterdon County Health Department has confirmed that a Flemington-Raritan Regional School District employee has tested positive for COVID-19. The staff member was present in Francis A. Desmares Elementary School and Reading-Fleming Intermediate School during the week of March 9 while symptomatic. It is important to note that as the state is doing more testing, our community is bound to see the number of cases rise. The County Health Department and our medical professionals have communicated with us that a rising number of confirmed cases is to be expected in New Jersey as more people are tested for COVID-19.

I recognize that our community has many questions and may feel an even greater sense of concern with this news. In this unsettling time, please remember that the risk remains low for our students, staff, and members of the Flemington-Raritan Regional School District. The Department of Health will contact anyone who is at-risk residing in our region within the next 24-hours. Those at-risk individuals who reside outside of our region will receive notification from their appropriate Department of Health. As recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, please contact your health care provider if you are experiencing any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, or shortness of breath.

In this climate, fear and anxiety surrounding COVID-19 can lead to stigma towards others. I encourage everyone to be informed and only share factual public health information without fear or stigmatization. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), is designed to provide privacy standards to protect patient's medical records and their health information. According to the [HIPAA journal](#), during a health emergency, such as a disease outbreak, HIPAA guidelines still apply. While some guidelines are relaxed, it is still important to protect patient information. In a [February 2020 briefing](#) from the Office of Civil Rights, the protection is defined and guidance provided. I will not share the employee's name nor further information that may identify the individual.

Governor Murphy announced a statewide stay-at-home order, directing all residents to stay at home until further notice. This order was put in place to protect the capacity of New Jersey's healthcare system for the state's most vulnerable. Our schools are closed. Playgrounds are closed. It is important to follow the guidelines and limit public interactions and social gatherings. Thank you for all that you have been doing to keep our community safe and our students supported.

My wish is for all of you to be safe and healthy. Please know that if I receive information from the Hunterdon County Health Department that directly affects our students, staff, or District community, I will continue to share the information with you that I am permitted to share. The Hunterdon County Health Department can be reached at (908) 788-1351, health@co.hunterdon.nj.us and <http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health.html>.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools
Flemington-Raritan Regional School District