

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
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January 6, 2021

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

The District has received notice of three positive COVID-19 cases at Copper Hill School. One is a student who was last in the building on December 18, one is a teacher who was last in the building on December 18, and one is a staff member who was last in the building on December 23. The District is committed to communicating with families information that is confirmed in real-time to the greatest extent possible; therefore, multiple messages will continue to be shared when relevant and necessary.

Hunterdon County is included in the Central West region of New Jersey on the [COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix](#). Since Monday we have been notified of multiple students, staff, and faculty quarantined due to the COVID-19 level “orange-high risk” exclusion criteria. We are managing the challenge, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to manage the number of staff, faculty, and students who are required to quarantine and be excluded from school. The District is working diligently to keep students, staff, faculty, and our community safe from the spread of COVID-19 and keep our doors open for in-person instruction.

Our Hunterdon County Health Department (DOH) and the Hunterdon Medical Center keep us advised of local circumstances that inform the decision-making process. Today, the Hunterdon Medical Center reported that they have seen a 30% rise in COVID patients in the last 36 hours. We will continue to stay informed and consider local circumstances when making decisions impacting our schools. We work hand-in-hand with the DOH to monitor case rate, emergency department data, and the positivity percentage rate in our region.

Staff, students, and faculty must stay home if they have:

- Tested positive (viral test) for COVID-19
- COVID-19 compatible symptoms
- Potential exposure to COVID-19 from close contact with a person with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.
- 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 or other:
 - [NJ Travel Advisory](#) (The District is working with the Department of Health and CDC guidance to have definitive guidance on 10 days versus 14 days quarantine requirement after travel. More information will be distributed to parents after final conversations with the Department of Health.)
 - [CDC After You Travel](#).

We have revised the daily student screening form to allow the District to help parents know when students should stay home from school. Parents will notice a few changes to the questions on the screening form.

Please prepare alternative plans in the event that the Department of Health or the health and safety protocols advise an individual(s) to quarantine or be excluded from school. The Flemington-Raritan Regional School District remains committed to our in-person program, but parents should be prepared to pivot to all-remote learning if the district cannot continue in-person instruction per New Jersey DOH and/or NJDOH COVID-19 guidance. 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 department 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 from school. Guidance from the school nurses and our local DOH will be provided to those that are exposed or need to be excluded from school. The



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requirements of the New Jersey Department of Health's restrictions while operating under the "orange- high risk" category restrict activities and require preventative and control measures.

Parents, please do not send your child into school if you have given fever-reducing medication or if your child is symptomatic with COVID-19 symptoms. If it is confirmed that a symptomatic child is present in school, the district may need to send an entire classroom of students and the teacher(s) home to quarantine. It is critical that every staff member and student take all precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. 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](#).

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.

COVID-19 has many symptoms, which 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. 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 you are all happy, safe, and healthy.

Wishing you good health,



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