

Dear Parents/Guardians,

You may have seen in the news that the CDC has been coming out with updated guidance on quarantine and isolation of COVID positive individuals. We continue to be in very close contact with the Freehold Area Health Department. They received communication this morning from the New Jersey Department of Health that the recent CDC recommendations on quarantine and isolation of positive COVID cases are applicable to the general population, but that there will be further changes not yet published to reflect guidance specific to schools. Therefore they advised us to continue following NJ Department of Health recommendations on the quarantine and isolation of individuals who are positive for COVID which we will continue to do in our schools.

If your child has tested positive for COVID, is symptomatic, or has been advised to quarantine you should not send them to school and contact your school's nurse. They will direct you how to proceed in terms of follow up and quarantine. While the nurses continue to use PCR COVID testing when indicated we are aware of significant lab delays caused by increase in testing over the holidays and with the uptick in Omicron variant cases. The District has secured a limited number of rapid antigen tests and may deploy them as needed in place of PCR testing with positive test results receiving a follow up PCR test.

The situation remains very fluid. A school closure, if it became necessary, would likely be driven by the availability of staff needed for student supervision and/or a recommendation from our local health officer. At the current time I do not have an indication that such a measure will be needed, but positive test results and the onset of symptoms come very quickly. We will try to give as much notice as possible in the event a school closure or a switch to remote instruction becomes necessary. I have spoken with the Monmouth County Superintendent of Schools who has indicated that at the current time all schools in Monmouth County will open as normal on Monday, January 3rd.

Regards,

Joe Howe

Joseph Howe, Ed.D.
Superintendent



