



Dumont Public Schools

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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Dumont School Community Members,

I hope this email finds you healthy and safe. The rise of COVID-19 cases in our community was on our minds as we headed into our winter recess and continues to impact our school community this week. We know that there have been and will be cases of COVID-19 over the break. We ask that you email your School Principal if your child has tested positive, is symptomatic, has been close in close contact with a COVID positive individual during the winter recess, or has traveled. As per previously communicated guidance, students or staff who have traveled outside of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania or Delaware during the break are subject to a quarantine if they were not vaccinated two weeks prior to travel. Principals will communicate this information to our school nurses for reporting purposes and to assist with contact tracing, if necessary. The charts included in this letter will provide some guidance for you on the required quarantine and the date your child may be permitted to return to school. Please note that an official return date will be communicated to you directly by a school official. **If you are unsure of whether or not your child should quarantine or when your quarantined child may return to school, please contact your child's Principal prior to sending your child to school.**

You may have heard in recent news reports that the CDC has changed some of its isolation and quarantine guidelines in certain situations, reducing the isolation or quarantine time for some individuals from 10 to 5 days. As of this writing, we have not received confirmation from the New Jersey Department of Education or the Department of Health in regards to whether or not these new guidelines will be implemented in our schools. Any changes to the current guidance for schools will be immediately communicated to our school community.

Our schools have also been receiving emails asking that we consider a pivot to a virtual program for a period of time after recess. As communicated in my last few letters home, the decision to move a school or the district to remote learning is not a decision that the Superintendent or Board of Education is currently allowed to make in isolation. The Department of Health must confirm that there is an outbreak in a school for this to occur. **An outbreak is defined as 3 cases within 14 days where the exposure has the same epidemiological link (i.e., 3 cases in one classroom where there is no other possible exposure for any of those 3 cases).** Most of our cases thus far

have been the result of household exposure or non-familial external exposure (i.e., outside of school outings). A communication will be sent if any of our schools have to pivot to a remote learning model due to a confirmed outbreak.

Our District's current COVID-19 statistics since September are as follows:

- To date, there have been 158 total cases of COVID-19 since September 1 in all five schools (staff members and students). The breakdown of cases by school is as follows:
 Dumont High School= 59
 Grant School= 26
 Honiss School= 31
 Lincoln School= 13
 Selzer School= 29

Yes, COVID-19 is here, but the district is continuing to use a variety of protocols to mitigate the impact within our school community. The low level of spread inside our schools is also partly due to our families keeping children that are sick home, and openly sharing about close contact and placing their children in quarantine appropriately. We thank you for your cooperation and ask that all of you continue to follow our protocols and to continue to keep your children home if they are symptomatic and/or sick.

WINTER RECESS REFERENCE CHARTS (as of 12/28/21):

IF YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID (For Both Vaccinated & Unvaccinated Individuals)	
<i>Date of Positive Test (if asymptomatic) or Date of Symptom Onset</i>	<i>Return Date*</i>
December 24	Tuesday, January 4
December 25	Wednesday, January 5
December 26	Thursday, January 6
December 27	Friday, January 7
December 28	Monday, January 10
December 29	Monday, January 10
December 30	Monday, January 10
December 31	Tuesday, January 11
January 1	Wednesday, January 12
January 2	Thursday, January 13

IF YOUR CHILD IS A CLOSE CONTACT (and Not Fully Vaccinated)		
<i>Date of Exposure</i>	<i>Return Date With Negative Test on Day 5, 6 or 7 After Exposure*</i>	<i>Return Date No Test</i>
December 24	Monday, January 3	Tuesday, January 4
December 25	Monday, January 3	Wednesday, January 5
December 26	Monday, January 3	Thursday, January 6
December 27	Tuesday, January 4	Friday, January 7

December 28	Wednesday, January 5	Monday, January 10
December 29	Thursday, January 6	Monday, January 10
December 30	Friday, January 7	Monday, January 10
December 31	Monday, January 10	Tuesday, January 11
January 1	Monday, January 10	Wednesday, January 12
January 2	Monday, January 10	Thursday, January 13

*Note: *Day 1 is the day after an individual has close contact.*

Individuals are considered fully vaccinated: 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine.

Regardless of vaccination status, if a student or staff experiences COVID-compatible symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, and tested for SARS-CoV-2.

As a final reminder, if your child tests positive or is a close contact, we ask that you email your child's Principal with the following information:

Student's Name:

Student's Grade:

Student's Homeroom Teacher:

Date of Positive Test or Exposure:

Date of Symptom Onset (if symptomatic):

Date of Anticipated Return (see chart above):

Parent Contact Number:

Please note that positive or negative test results **OR** a doctor's clearance note with an alternative diagnosis will need to be forwarded to your child's school nurse before your child is cleared to return to school. As a reminder, due to reliability issues, results from **home-based tests will not be accepted.**

On Monday, January 3, virtual instruction will not be immediately provided to students quarantining or isolating; however, you will be contacted as soon as possible by either your child's teacher(s) or an administrator to confirm when virtual instruction will begin. Work will be provided for your child for Monday while arrangements for virtual instruction are being made. We appreciate your honesty, patience, cooperation, and attention to our procedures. Maintaining a healthy school environment is truly a community effort and we thank you in advance for helping to keep our schools as safe as possible for the remainder of the school year.

On a final note, if any of above protocols or information evolve, another update will be sent.

Respectfully,



Dr. Maria Poidomani
Superintendent of Schools