

January 24, 2021

Dear Scotch Plains-Fanwood community,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of three current positive COVID-19 cases. The district was notified that two individuals, in the same class, at Brunner Elementary School tested positive for COVID-19. The second school impacted is Evergreen Elementary School where an individual tested positive, as well as two individuals in this same class demonstrated possible COVID-19 symptoms. Our school officials, in consultation with the local health department, have deemed it necessary to place everyone in those two classrooms on a 14 day quarantine. These classes will move to remote instruction. The district continues to work closely with public health officials in order to assure the health and safety of our community.

**Please be advised that any family who has a child in the classrooms where the individual/s tested positive have already been notified.**

As well as the three cases highlighted above, the district was informed by the local health department of four other positive cases that were not reported directly to the schools. These individuals were not present in our buildings, and therefore did not result in the need to quarantine any other individuals. Household and close contacts of these individuals would require the 14 day quarantine.

It is imperative that our family and staff members notify your School Nurse of any known positive COVID-19 cases, regardless of whether you are participating in the hybrid or fully remote model. This is of the utmost importance so that we may keep everyone safe and schools open.

We recognize that you may want more detailed information about the situations, but for reasons of confidentiality we cannot share anymore information. We are hopeful that the mitigation measures we have in place, such as universal masking, screening procedures, social distancing, enhanced cleaning procedures, and other precautions, will have their intended effect and reduce or minimize the risk of transmission in the school environment. We encourage parents and students to continue following the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention promoted safeguards, such as:

- Staying home when you are sick;
- Washing hands often for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
- Wearing a face covering while in school; and
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms

As always, we appreciate your support and cooperation. Moving forward, you can assist us by remaining vigilant but sensible in your approach to dealing with this health concern. Thank you for your ongoing patience and flexibility as we continue to navigate through this school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Mast

Superintendent