

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

512 Cedar Street
Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076

Joan Mast, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Ext. 41102 or 41103

February 7, 2021

Dear Scotch Plains-Fanwood community,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the District was notified that one individual at Park Middle School and an individual at McGinn Elementary School tested positive for COVID-19. It has been determined, in consultation with the Department of Health Offices, that based on the timing of these cases, there are no close contacts at McGinn Elementary School, therefore there is no impact on classes. Additionally, the administration in compliance with Department of Health guidelines, has already communicated directly with any individual who has been identified as a close contact with the individual at Park Middle School, and advised those families accordingly.

As per the NJ Department of Health, close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

The District continues to work closely with public health officials in order to assure the health and safety of our community.

I recognize that many of you would like more detailed information about the cases or contacts of the cases. The information I am providing you here has been composed in consultation with and vetted by the Department of Health, and I am not in a position to comment further.

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;
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms;
- Immediately notifying your child's school if they have a positive COVID-19 test result

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 make our way through this school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Mast

Superintendent