



## NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

DAVID M. MICELI, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
908-464-9050 (ext. 4225)

JAMES E. TESTA  
School Business Administrator/  
Board Secretary  
908-464-9050 (ext. 4223)

LAUREN ZIRPOLI  
Assistant Superintendent of  
Educational Services  
908-464-9050 (ext. 4222)

JOHN M. RICHTER, JR.  
Director of Curriculum,  
Instruction, and Supervision  
908-464-9050 (ext. 4221)

356 ELKWOOD AVENUE • NEW PROVIDENCE, NJ 07974 • FAX (908) 464-4813 • [www.npsd.k12.nj.us](http://www.npsd.k12.nj.us)

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to share some updated health information and reminders given the changing environment involving the coronavirus pandemic. With the onset of cold and flu season and the upcoming holidays, we are working to protect the health of the school community. Thank you for your ongoing support of the district's efforts to maintain a healthy environment for our students to learn and grow in.

Please review the following important reminders and updates. Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Feel free to contact your child's school nurse if you have any questions.

### Quarantine adjustments:

- **Upon consultation with the Westfield Regional Health Department and the local health department, the district's procedures in regards to quarantine periods for exposed unvaccinated individuals is being adjusted as follows:**
  - All exposed individuals (who are unvaccinated) will be required to quarantine for **ten days** from last known exposure. Students may return on day 11.
  - Exposed individuals may shorten the duration of their quarantine and return to school on day 8 with a **negative PCR test taken on day 5 or later**. This is regardless of the regional risk rating of our area. Test results must be submitted to your school nurse.

### Other Important Reminders:

- **Submitting COVID Immunization Records:** Please be reminded to submit your child's COVID immunization card by utilizing the [NPSD Vaccination Card Form](#). Fully vaccinated students (that remain asymptomatic) do not need to quarantine after exposure or travel.
- **Related to travel:** As a reminder, any unvaccinated individual who travels **outside of the contiguous United States** is required to quarantine upon return. The quarantine period for travel is 10 days, with an option to return on day 8 if a negative PCR test is performed on day 3 or later upon return home.
- **When ill or had close contact with an infected individual:** Isolation and quarantine periods must also be adhered to when students become infected with the coronavirus or are close contacts (if unvaccinated) of individuals with COVID. The local health department will continue to determine the appropriate return-to-school dates. The school nurses cannot issue return-to-school dates until approval from the local health department is obtained.
- **If waiting for test results:** Students should remain quarantined at home when waiting for COVID test results. If there is a reasonable suspicion of COVID infection, individuals who go for testing should not participate in activities outside the home until a negative test result is received. This includes individuals with COVID-like symptoms as well as those who have had contact with ill persons. Please refer to the district [flow charts](#) for guidance regarding school attendance.

**Reporting absences:**

All absences must be reported via the online [Attendance Matters form](#) available on the district and each school's websites.

**Parents are expected to continue to check their children before leaving the home and avoid sending students who display fever or any COVID-like symptoms to school.**

**\*\*STUDENTS WITH TWO OR MORE "YELLOW" SYMPTOMS OR AT LEAST ONE "ORANGE" SYMPTOM SHOULD NOT BE SENT TO SCHOOL\*\***

Fever ( $\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$ )	Muscle or Body Aches	Chills
Shivers	Sore throat	Nausea or Vomiting
Fatigue	Headache	Congestion or runny nose
Diarrhea	Difficulty Breathing	Cough
Shortness of breath	New loss of taste	New loss of smell

\*\*For more information in regards to staying home, as well as when a student may return to school, please view the [NPSD "Symptomatic" Flow Chart](#).

**Communication:**

Communication between the home and school is vitally important and parental vigilance is key to keeping our schools safe. Staying in touch with your school nurse and alerting us when students are being tested or are symptomatic helps us to best protect our school community. Please reach out to your nurses any time you have any questions or concerns.

Stay Healthy!

Mr. Vincent Carangelo  
Director of Athletics/Supervisor of PE/Health/Nurses  
[vcarangelo@npsdnj.org](mailto:vcarangelo@npsdnj.org)

Ms. Lynn Kral, MPH, MS, RN, CSN-NJ  
Salt Brook Elementary School  
[lkral@npsdnj.org](mailto:lkral@npsdnj.org)

Mrs. Anne Berardi, MSN, RN, NCSN  
New Providence High School/Middle School  
[aberardi@npsdnj.org](mailto:aberardi@npsdnj.org)

Mrs. Noelle Stock, BSN RN  
Allen W. Roberts Elementary School  
[nstock@npsdnj.org](mailto:nstock@npsdnj.org)