



## NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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November 23, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter will serve to provide important and updated health and safety information as it pertains to changes in guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and the Westfield Regional Health Department (WRHD). As of Thursday, November 19th, the NJDOH updated its [“COVID-19 Activity Level Index”](#) and identified the vast majority of the state, as well as our particular region (“Central East”) as [“High Risk.”](#) As a result of this increased risk, the NJDOH has updated its [“COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools.”](#)

Some of the key updates provided by the local and state departments of health include the following:

- Individuals with COVID-19 compatible symptoms should be excluded until they have a negative COVID-19 test or have met the criteria for discontinuing home isolation (i.e. *at least 10 days have passed from onset of symptoms & 24 hours fever free (no meds) & other symptoms have improved*).
  - ***NOTE - An alternative medical diagnosis should no longer be accepted for return to school when individuals meet the COVID-19 exclusion criteria. \*This means that a doctor's note cannot be accepted for return to school if an individual's symptoms meet the COVID-like illness criteria.***
- Close contacts and household contacts of individuals who have COVID-19 compatible symptoms should be excluded for 14 days from last contact or until a COVID-19 negative test is received from the person they were in contact with.
  - ***NOTE - An alternative medical diagnosis for a symptomatic close contact should no longer be accepted for return to school when said contact meets the COVID-19 exclusion criteria.\****

As a result of the changes noted above, the district has updated its COVID-19 Symptomatic and Asymptomatic Flow Charts to accurately reflect all revised department of health guidance:

- [Asymptomatic and Symptomatic Student Flow Charts](#)
- [Asymptomatic and Symptomatic Student Flow Charts - Spanish Version](#)

Please be reminded that 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 our school nurses any time you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Vincent Carangelo  
Director of Athletics  
Supervisor of Nurses, Health, and Physical Education  
New Providence School District