



NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

We would like to share updated information regarding current COVID-19 activity. Please review the following updates and contact your child's school nurse if you have any questions

Current COVID-19 Activity is "High": The most recent report from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) indicates that regional COVID-19 activity is "high" and the Westfield Regional Health Department confirms a similar trend locally. These [weekly reports](#) have shown a steady increase in COVID-19 activity both statewide and regionally over the past several weeks. As reported on the [New Providence School District's COVID-19 Dashboard](#), we are finding similar increases in our school community.

Please also note that flu activity is also reported as "high" by the NJDOH and we have been seeing a number of confirmed cases of flu in recent weeks.


What parents can do: Parents play an essential role in keeping their children and the school community healthy. We rely on parental reporting of cases and adherence to COVID and basic health protocols to support the health of all students.

- **Make decisions on mask wearing that best meet the needs of your family:** As per Dr. Miceli's letter on 2/28/22, masks are optional. Those staff members and students who wish to wear a mask may do so accordingly. *The Department of Health strongly encourages parents to make individual decisions for their children on the wearing of masks. Immunocompromised individuals are strongly recommended to wear a mask. If there is an immunocompromised member of the family in the home, individuals are strongly recommended to wear a mask. Additionally, if you are concerned about disease transmission, or not "up to date" on your COVID-19 vaccines, or live with someone who is not "up to date" on COVID-19 vaccines, you are encouraged to wear a mask.*
- **Keep sick children home:** Do not assume symptoms are "just a cold" or "just allergies". Symptoms of Covid are varied and are similar to other illnesses and health conditions.
- **Get tested:** Covid testing is required when symptoms meet Covid-like illness criteria. ****home testing cannot be accepted to clear a student to return to school****
- **Report positive cases to the New Providence Public Health Nurse in addition to your child's school nurse:** Positive cases identified by home tests should be reported to Jennifer Aranda via email: Newprovphn@gmail.com PCR testing is encouraged to confirm positive cases. Students with positive PCR tests will not need to be tested for 90 days after the date of the positive test. *Unconfirmed home tests do not exclude students from re-testing within this 90 day period.*
- **Review health protocols:** Please review the [Health Reminders & Updates](#) that were shared in March. These Covid and Basic health protocols remain in place.

- **Continue daily checks for symptoms:** Parents are responsible for screening their children for symptoms of illness. Please continue to perform daily checks for symptoms.

COVID related isolation, quarantine, and return to school:

- **Positive COVID cases:** A 5-day home isolation, followed by 5 days of strict mask wearing. Students must be feeling well and symptoms resolved to return to school.
- **Close household contact of someone with COVID:** Quarantine is required for students who are not up to date with vaccine recommendations.. *Household close contacts are strongly encouraged to quarantine even when vaccinated
- **If waiting for test results:** Students must remain at home when waiting for test results.



Healthy Children Learn Better

Health Reminders & Updates

-from the School Nurses of the New Providence School District

March 2022

****Parents should be monitoring their children daily for symptoms of illness.**** Basic procedures and COVID precautions are still in place.. Please refer to the following information and guidelines regarding school attendance. Contact the School Nurse at your child's school with any questions.

Can My Child Go To School?

YES! If they...

- ❖ Feel great and have no symptoms
- ❖ Have had a negative COVID test **AND** symptoms are significantly improved
- ❖ Have a single common symptom but otherwise feels well
- ❖ Are up to date with COVID vaccine and feel well after close contact
- ❖ Have received a full 24 hours of antibiotics for illness (ie: strep throat)

NO! If they have...

- ❖ COVID-like illness symptoms
- ❖ A positive COVID test
- ❖ Fever, Vomiting or Diarrhea within the past 24 hours.
- ❖ Single common symptom that is severe (ie: copious nasal discharge or sore throat that inhibits eating)
- ❖ A pending COVID test due to illness
- ❖ Feels generally unwell


What about Allergies or Colds?

- ❖ We cannot assume that COVID-like symptoms are "just" allergies or a cold
- ❖ Testing or doctor's note that lists an alternate diagnosis is required
- ❖ Home tests cannot be accepted to clear a student for school attendance

Basic Health Protocols:

- ❖ Do not send sick students to school!
- ❖ Monitor your child daily
- ❖ Check with your school nurse if your child needs medication or PE excuses

COVID Vaccines:



- ❖ Recommended for children age 5 and up
- ❖ Allow students to avoid quarantine when exposed to a COVID case *must be up to date with recommended booster dose
- ❖ Prevent serious COVID illness
- ❖ Do Not change protocols when a student is ill or tests positive

Is It COVID-like Illness?

YES! If they have...

2 Common Symptoms:

- >Fever
- >Runny Nose/Congestion
- >Sore Throat >Headache
- >Muscle Aches >Fatigue
- >Chills/ Shivers
- >Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea

OR

1 Significant Symptom:

- >Cough >Difficulty Breathing
- >Loss of taste or smell

****A negative COVID test is needed to return to school!! (home tests cannot be accepted) Stay home until all results are available!!**

NJDOH&NJDOE: The Road Forward Sept. 2021| CDC.gov COVID 19

Communication between the home and school is vitally important and parental vigilance is key to keeping our schools healthy. Please reach out to us any time you have any questions or concerns.

Stay Healthy!

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