



Rochelle Park School District

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December 31, 2021

Dear School Community Members,

I sincerely hope you and your loved ones are well and that you have been able to enjoy the holiday break. Unfortunately, I must send you another notice on the topic of COVID-19 cases and the updated guidelines from the State of New Jersey. While I imagine you may have grown tired of these notices, (I surely don't favor them) it is necessary to communicate with you on these important matters. Please take the time to read this notice closely.

You may have heard of changes in guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). During this week, we awaited information from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) to learn if the NJDOH will adopt the CDC guidelines. This morning the Bergen County Office of Education sent an update from the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) Assistant Commissioner that the NJDOH has not applied the new CDC guidelines to schools as the CDC guidance was not specific to schools. Therefore, until CDC updates school specific guidance, New Jersey K-12 schools continue to follow conventional (10 day) isolation and quarantine timeframes. The complete NJDOH document released last night, December 30, 2021, is attached to this letter and is available for your review at: [Updates for K-12 Schools: Isolation/Quarantine Timeframes and Recommendations for Very High COVID-19 Activity Levels](#).

At this time Midland School is expected to open with a regular schedule on Monday, January 3, 2022. *In order to limit the spread of COVID-19 and reduce any need for contact tracing and related quarantine measures **the following practices must be followed:***

- ★ A student or staff member who is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms should not report to school. Please contact the school nurse, Mrs. Meyers, smeyers@rochellepark.org, on Monday, January 3, 2022 and each day as needed.
- ★ A student or staff member who is unvaccinated and has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 over the break should not report to school on Monday, January 3, 2022. Please contact the school nurse on Monday and wait for guidance.
- ★ A student or staff member who is waiting for COVID-19 results should not report to school until receiving a negative test result.

It is recognized that COVID-19 cases have risen. The NJDOH [COVID-19 Activity Level Report](#) for the week of December 25, 2021 is noted as “Very High” for Bergen County, as well as many other areas of the state. These weekly reports continue to be available at: [Department of Health | Communicable Disease Service | COVID-19 Weekly CALI and Variant Surveillance Reports](#).

Please note, any decision to delay in-person instruction or provide full remote instruction is made ONLY with a recommendation from the Bergen County Health Department. Any such action without a recommendation from the Health Department could be deemed an unauthorized closure and result in the necessity of adding days to the school calendar to satisfy the 180 day mandate. Therefore, we will continue to provide healthy and safe practices within our building, monitor the COVID-19 data, and maintain close communication with the Bergen County Health Department and Bergen County Office of Education.

Your support for practicing healthy and safe measures outside of school is an essential part of this process. **Midland School will again require the completion of a daily health screening form prior to coming to the building. Please be sure to complete this and remain home if your responses on this form warrant such.**

The data is changing daily and the guidance from the state is frequently changing too. Please know that we are doing our best to maintain healthy and safe practices, and be responsive to the changing guidance. We will continue to follow the most current safety guidelines and communicate them to you in a timely manner. Thank you for your continued cooperation, understanding, and support as we persevere through these changing times.

With best wishes to you and your family for a Happy New Year. May 2022 bring good health to all!

Respectfully,

Dr. Sue DeNobile, Superintendent