



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

January 13, 2022

Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Learning Community,

As we prepare for the reopening of schools to in-person learning on Tuesday, January 18, please be advised that there have been several guideline updates as it pertains to exposure to COVID-19, quarantining, and wearing masks.

In our commitment to provide the safest learning environment possible for all students and team members, we wanted to share these guidelines with you to provide a better understanding of the protocols that our district will be observing in accordance with the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

In recent days and weeks, the NJDOE has updated its guidelines in accordance with CDC recommendations and will continue to do so as information is gathered, analyzed, and assessed. It is important that we remain flexible as these guidelines are dictated by conditions that have changed repeatedly and rapidly.

Below are some of the updated guidelines that have been put in place by the NJDOE.

NEW INFORMATION AND UPDATES

- Students and team members who test positive for COVID:
 - should quarantine at home for five days after they experience symptoms or receive a positive test
 - can return to K-12 schools on the sixth day if their symptoms have improved or if they are symptom free
- Students exposed to someone COVID positive in the household:
 - should stay home from school for at least five days and use a rapid test or at-home test kit on the fifth day
 - if negative on the fifth day, can return to school on the sixth day

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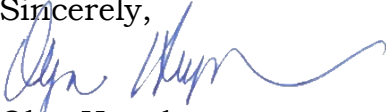
- Students, 18 and over, and team members exposed to COVID, but who have no symptoms:
 - do not need to stay home from school if they have received all their vaccines.
- Students, ages 5 to 17, exposed to COVID but who have no symptoms:
 - do not need to quarantine if they have received the full course of vaccines for their age group
- Students and team members exposed to COVID upon returning to school during days 6 through 10 after completing their five-day quarantines at home will need to social distance during the breakfast and lunch program.
- Students and team members are required to wear their masks while in school in accordance with Governor Murphy's Executive Order.

It is our goal to continue to provide students with the in-person education they deserve that best addresses their academic, social, and emotional needs and development. Our best chance of succeeding in this effort is working together and observing these guidelines to keep our students, team members, and families as safe as possible. Please join me on Saturday, January 15th at 10:00a.m. to learn more about the COVID guidelines. Please log onto epsnj.org to access the link for more information.

I look forward to welcoming our students and team members back on Tuesday, January 18 and encourage everyone to continue doing their best to take the necessary steps as individuals and as a community to help protect one another and keep each other safe and well.

Thank you as always for your continued support and understanding.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer