

# The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

512 Cedar Street  
Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076

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Superintendent of Schools

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April 1, 2021

Dear Scotch Plains-Fanwood community,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that since March 28th through today, the District was notified that three individuals at Evergreen Elementary School, three individuals at Terrill Middle School, two individuals at Park Middle School, one individual at McGinn Elementary School, six individuals at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and one individual who works at the District level have tested positive for COVID-19.

Please be advised that the district has confirmed there were no close contacts with two of the cases at Evergreen, while the district communicated with any individual identified as a close contact of the third case and they have been advised accordingly.

Please be further advised that the district has confirmed that there were no close contacts with two of the cases at Terrill, while the district communicated with any individual identified as a close contact of the third case and they have been advised accordingly.

Be further advised that the district has confirmed there were no close contacts with both positive cases at Park.

Be further advised that the district has confirmed there were no close contacts with the one case at McGinn.

Please be further advised that one case at SPFHS was contagious while in the building. Contact tracing is still being conducted and all close contacts will be identified and contacted accordingly. All contacts for three of the positive cases at SPFHS have been identified and contacted accordingly. Additionally, two of the cases at SPFHS were identified as having no close contacts.

Finally, the individual who works at a district level has been identified as having no close contacts.

As per the NJ Department of Health, close contact is defined as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated.

It is also important to emphasize that although we continue to identify positive cases we do not have confirmed student-to-student, student-to-staff, staff-to-student, or teacher-to-teacher transmission. This provides compelling evidence that our mitigation strategies are effective.

The District continues to work closely with public health officials in order to assure the health and safety of our community.

I recognize that many of you would like more detailed information about the cases or contacts of the cases. The information I am providing you here has been composed in consultation with and vetted by the Department of Health, and I am not in a position to comment further.

We are hopeful that the mitigation measures we have in place, such as universal masking, screening procedures, social distancing, enhanced cleaning procedures, and other precautions, will have their intended effect and reduce or minimize the risk of transmission in the school environment. We encourage parents and students to continue following the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention promoted safeguards, such as:

- Staying home when you are sick;
- Washing hands often for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;

- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
- Wearing a face covering while in school;
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms;
- Immediately notifying your child's school if they have a positive COVID-19 test result

As always, we appreciate your support and cooperation. Moving forward, you can assist us by remaining vigilant but sensible in your approach to dealing with this health concern. Thank you for your ongoing patience and flexibility as we continue to make our way through this school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Mast

Superintendent