

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

512 Cedar Street
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Superintendent of Schools

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Dear SPF Community,

Yesterday the New Jersey Department of Health released new guidelines for isolation and quarantine for schools. We have fully evaluated these changes in consultation with both the Union County Health Department and the Westfield Regional Health Department and have revised our guidelines accordingly. These guidelines will take effect within the Scotch Plains-Fanwood District next week.

Starting Tuesday, January 18, 2022, you will be notified, by your school nurse, if your child's timeline to return to school is impacted by the new criteria.

This is a brief summary of the changes to the guidelines.

The **isolation** period for anyone testing positive for COVID, has been reduced to **FIVE (5)** days from the date of symptom onset or the date of the positive test if the student was asymptomatic.

- A student may return to school on Day **SIX (6)** if symptoms have resolved and the student has been fever-free for 24 hours. If symptoms persist (*other than loss of taste or smell*), isolation would need to continue.

School Return Protocol (Days 6-10):

- Students must wear a well-fitted mask at all times both indoor and outdoors, on Days 6-10. (This includes recess and PE classes.)
- Students will be excused from any activity that would require the removal of a mask. (This includes after school sports, band, etc.)
- Individual mask breaks will be provided as needed for students.
- During lunch, maximum distancing should be maintained and masks worn whenever not actively eating or drinking
- If the student cannot wear a mask at all times or does not wear the mask properly (Covering the nose and mouth), the student will be expected to complete a 10-day isolation period.

The **quarantine** period for unvaccinated students exposed to COVID has been reduced to **FIVE (5)** days. Unvaccinated students may end their quarantine on day **SIX (6)** and return to

school as long as they remain asymptomatic. A negative test is not required for students to return to school but it is **strongly recommended**.

- If the close contact is a household member, different timelines will apply, and will be specific to each situation in accordance with the guidelines.

The district will continue to keep our community updated as we respond to the changing guidance. Your partnership is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Mast

Superintendent