

# The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Public Schools

512 Cedar Street  
Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076

Joan Mast, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear SPF Community,

Happy New Year to each of you! With the winter recess behind us, the district is now focused on making final preparations for implementation of the hybrid instructional model. As previously communicated, hybrid will begin January 14th for grades K-6, and January 19th for PreK and 7-12. We respectfully ask everyone to consider the community at-large and to practice essential COVID-19 guidelines (see below) whether your child (children) are in school and/or out in the community. Our community's commitment to following health and safety protocols is needed for in-person hybrid instruction to be successful. Remember, one student or staff member who comes to school after a positive exposure can cause an entire class to quarantine. The choices we make outside of school directly impact students and employees inside our buildings.

Parents may change a student's schedule from hybrid to remote at any time by informing the building principal. Shifting from remote to hybrid requires advanced notice. As such, the next opportunity to shift from remote to hybrid will require notification to your principal by the deadline of February 9th for a change on February 16th, and then again by March 15th for a change on March 22nd.

The COVID-19 Dashboard on the [district website](#) homepage will be updated weekly with the number of positive cases and those in quarantine in our schools. In addition, the superintendent's office will send out a notification to the whole community each time there is a positive COVID-19 case in a school which may also include quarantine and class closure details. The intent of this measure is to keep everyone aware of the impact COVID is having in our district.

Please note that the district will potentially need to quarantine individuals, entire classrooms, and/or close individual schools depending on the number of COVID-19 positive cases. It is our intention to continue with in-person instruction as long as we can do so safely. Please note that the NJ Department of Health is still recommending a 14-Day Quarantine Protocol.

The district continues to review information provided from the following sources to ensure the health and safety of the students and staff in our schools:

- State and county guidelines
- Data surrounding local conditions, district reports and staffing information
- Recommendations made after consultation with health professionals regarding data available that impacts quarantines, closures, or opening
- Information gathered in consultation with the local departments of health

## COVID-19 GUIDELINES

- Wear masks, especially when within 6 feet of others both indoors and outdoors
- Wash/Sanitize hands frequently
- Stay physically distant from others, 6 feet apart, especially indoors
- Keep your child (children) at home if he/she/they have any of the indicators mentioned on the Daily Symptom Screening form ([Instructions to Complete the Daily Health Screening are linked here.](#))
- Communicate to your school nurse any instance of having close contact and/or symptoms
- Cooperate with the policies and/or recommendations of local health officials whenever asked to do so

We look forward to welcoming our students back for in-person instruction. I remain optimistic that springtime and the rollout of the vaccine will bring us one step closer to returning to our normal lives. Thank you for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joan Mast, Superintendent