

# 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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Ext. 41102 or 41103

January 26, 2021

Dear Scotch Plains-Fanwood community,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the District was notified that an individual at Evergreen Elementary School and an individual at McGinn Elementary School tested positive for COVID-19. The District, in consultation with the Department of Health Offices, has already communicated directly with any individual who has been identified as a close contact with the individual at Evergreen and advised those families accordingly. Please be advised that based on the timing of the case at McGinn Elementary School, the District, in consultation with the Department of Health Offices, has confirmed that there are no close contacts in the school and therefore there is no impact on classes at McGinn.

As well as the two cases highlighted above, the district was informed by the local health department of two other positive cases that were not reported directly to the schools. These individuals were not present in our buildings, and therefore did not result in the need to quarantine any other individuals. Household and close contacts of these individuals would require the 14 day quarantine.

It is imperative that our family and staff members notify your School Nurse of any known positive COVID-19 cases, regardless of whether you are participating in the hybrid or fully remote model. This is of the utmost importance so that we may keep everyone safe and schools open.

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