



Jonathan Hart, Ph.D., *Superintendent*
Jason M. Bohm, CPA, *Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

jhart@readington.k12.nj.us
jbohm@readington.k12.nj.us

P.O. Box 807 • 52 Readington Road • Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889 • (908)-534-2195 • (908) 349-3042 fax

August 22, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to inform you of our COVID-19 protocols for this upcoming school year 2022-2023. You will find that we will largely return to a normal school year due to the updated guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). This is pleasing news to our staff and administration as we look forward to a great school year.

First, the NJ Department of Health is now recommending a transition away from the case-investigation repose model (i.e. contact tracing) to a routine disease control model, mirrored in our communicable disease policy. This model allows us to focus on the response to a cluster of cases, outbreaks, and evidence of within-school transmission. In other words, the **school district will no longer engage in contact tracing or implement any quarantines for close contacts of positive cases**. Masking remains voluntary for individuals, including on district buses. Of course, any student or staff member can wear a mask for personal health reasons.

COVID-19 cases will continue to be among us in schools. In order to control the spread of disease, please practice good hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and stay home when ill. The NJDOH recommends positive COVID-19 cases of staff and students staying home for five (5) days from the onset of symptoms. Staff and students may return as long as individuals are 24 hours fever free, and masks are recommended for an additional five (5) days.

As the NJDOH collaborates with us, we will monitor for clusters of cases, outbreaks, and within-school transmission. We have always monitored clusters of cases with other communicable diseases such as pertussis, measles, and even the seasonal flu. There may be a classroom, school, or possibly district-level response should an outbreak occur. However, our response would likely be limited to the context of an outbreak.

We ask that every member of the Readington School District community continue to monitor COVID-like symptoms, stress the importance of staying home when sick, and reinforce good hygiene and respiratory etiquette. This will continue to ensure our community remains healthy and available for learning.

Very truly yours,

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools