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January 8, 2021

Dear Readington Families,

Happy New Year! This week we welcomed our students back for in-person instruction after a well-deserved break. This letter updates you on the current COVID-19 pandemic with regard to changes in students' return to school after COVID-like illness, changes in quarantine guidelines, and information regarding the vaccine.

First, please note that the New Jersey Department of Health has made the following change regarding a student's return to school following an illness: **“In the context of an ongoing state-wide second wave, New Jersey continues to experience COVID-19 transmission among school-aged children. In children, signs/symptoms are often mild, and it may not be possible to clinically distinguish COVID-19 from other illnesses. For this reason, the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) recommends that any child with COVID-19 compatible symptoms should not return to school until they have either received negative viral test (molecular or antigen) for COVID-19 or they have completed an isolation period of at least 10 days since symptom onset and at least 24 hours after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications with symptom improvement. A purely clinical alternative diagnosis is no longer acceptable.”**

There have also been updates regarding guidance related to out-of-state travel. While New Jersey strongly discourages all non-essential interstate travel at this time the state has begun implementing recommendations from the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov), which are as follows:

- If travel is unavoidable, travelers should consider getting tested with a viral test (not an antibody test) 1-3 days before the trip and again 3-5 days after the trip.
- If travelers test positive, they should **self-isolate for at least 10 days and should postpone travel during that time.**
- If travelers test negative, they should **quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.**
- If testing is not available (or if the results are delayed), travelers should **quarantine for 10 days after travel.**

The advisory is no longer specific to certain states. Because of the rising number of case counts across all states, there is an increased risk of spread of COVID-19 upon return from any travel. For more information about New Jersey travel guidelines, please visit the [New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub](#). Finally, for individuals with close contact to a confirmed case, the NJDOH continues to recommend a **14-day quarantine**. Our school nurses will be enforcing these recent guideline revisions.

New Jersey will roll out COVID-19 vaccines in a phased approach to all adults who live, work, or are being educated in the state. Currently, the state is vaccinating those designated as phase 1A - healthcare workers and long-term care residents. Phase 1B will begin with law enforcement personnel and fire professionals. Phase 1B will also include teachers/educators. The state has developed a registration system for the vaccine. If you wish to learn more, please visit the [COVID Vaccine page](#) on the Information Hub.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Hart", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools