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Dr. Frank Ranelli
Superintendent of Schools

August 18, 2021

Dear Piscataway Families:

I sincerely hope you are getting an opportunity to get some rest, relaxation, and family time this summer. During the summer, the administrative team was able to meet more frequently in person and I am very excited to get the new school year started. I do, however, understand the challenges we will face. As you know, all students and staff are set to begin the school year full time and in-person.

Please see all the details in this letter as we prepare to return to school in just a few short weeks. The COVID-19 pandemic is still upon us and, like last year, we will navigate each day with as much caution as possible.

Building specific information from your principals will be emailed to you tomorrow (Thursday, August 19). These emails will provide you with specific building logistics to answer many of your day-to-day questions. Today's information from me outlines guidelines that will impact the entire district.

Please note the district protocols below can be adjusted at any time to align with appropriate safety measures and State of New Jersey guidelines.

Mask Wearing

According to Executive Order 251, all students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear masks at all times inside all Piscataway Township schools, buses, and facilities. Please see the executive order [here](#) for specifics and exemptions.

Screening Tools

As COVID-19 has shown improvement in comparison to the last school year, we will not be taking daily temperatures of staff or students. Also, parents will complete the COVID-19 symptom form once at the beginning of each month in Genesis as a reminder to check for COVID-19 symptoms on a daily basis and react accordingly.

Visitors

Visitors will be allowed in our buildings. We ask parents to try to keep their visits to buildings to only necessary business.

Vaccinations

Vaccinations are available to students ages 12 and up. Please see the following details:

- Vaccinated students can continue to attend school after a possible COVID exposure or travel guidelines listed below. In most cases, following proof of vaccination, vaccinated students should not have to quarantine.
- Unvaccinated students must follow quarantine exposure guidelines and travel guidelines listed below.

District Travel Guidelines

1. Travel within NJ and Adjacent States (NY, PA, and DE)
 - a. Vaccinated Individuals: No restrictions; No notification required.
 - b. Unvaccinated Individuals: No restrictions; No notification required.
2. Domestic and International Travel (other than states listed above)
 - a. Vaccinated Individuals: Notify your building's main office upon return to NJ; Provide proof of vaccination; Monitor any possible symptoms; No quarantine required.
 - b. Unvaccinated Individuals: Notify your building's main office upon return to NJ; Quarantine period: 10 days symptom-free from date of return to area OR 7 days from date of return to area with valid negative test within two days of return to school (test as early as day 5 for day 7 return to school).

Student or Staff Illness/Exposure at School

We will handle these situations as we did last spring. School nurses are well versed in protocols and their offices are well-equipped with PPE materials. Each building has an isolation room available for use as well.

1. Vaccinated students who are exposed to a positive or probable case will not need to quarantine if they show proof of vaccination.
2. Unvaccinated students who are exposed to a positive or probable case will need to quarantine and will not be able to attend school. Quarantine period: 10 days symptom-free from date of exposure OR 7 days from date of exposure with valid negative test within two days of return to school (test as early as day 5 for day 7 return to school). Quarantined students will be educated remotely.

Additional Notes:

- Our district guidelines may not directly match the CDC recommendations. We base these decisions on many safety factors, including regular communication with local health agencies.
- The COVID-19 situation, including the spread of new or concerning variants, differs from country to country. All potential international travelers should pay close attention to the conditions of their destination before traveling. Please visit the CDC website for information.

COVID-19 Communication

The district COVID-19 dashboard will be back on the website beginning Wednesday, September 8, 2021. All the numbers will reflect the 2021-2022 school year. We will also send out COVID-19 notifications to all district stakeholders as we did last year.

As questions arise, please know we created a special section on our website devoted solely to [2021-2022 Learning Information](#). Accessible on both the District and all school websites through the first "Quick Link," it is also found under the "Parents" tab. You will find our *Guide for the 2021-2022 School Year* there, as well as a Q&A, infographics that show information about our return to school, quarantining guidelines, and more, state guidance documents and an archive of the year's parent letters in multiple languages.

I truly appreciate your patience; I wanted to try to get all this information correct and responsibly send it out without having to make any changes. In saying that, we will continue to monitor the health situation multiple times a day, take guidance from the NJDOE, and make the best decisions possible for our district. I look forward to welcoming our families back-to-school.

Sincerely,



Dr. Frank Ranelli
Superintendent of Schools