



SADDLE BROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

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COVID NOTICES - PHASE THREE - UPDATES

January 14, 2021

Dear Parents and School Community Members:

Happy New Year to all of you! Wishing you all good health, peace and prosperity in 2021. We have successfully made it through the holidays, and seem to be managing synchronous virtual learning pretty well. We never profess to be perfect but we are doing our very best to meet everyone's needs within a safe model of instruction.

Currently, we have **11 active cases** with infected individuals across **Long, Smith, Washington, and the MS/HS buildings**. However, due to the remote work/virtual learning schedule in conjunction with well-established timelines for infection and contact tracing, no one needs to quarantine. ***This does, however, pose a staffing issue at Washington School for the week of January 18-22. Washington School will need to remain on fully virtual learning for that week. In-person instruction at Washington School ONLY will begin on January 26.***



COVID Parent Forms for students to return to school next week **MUST** be completed by Friday, January 15. The district is closed Monday, and we are monitoring these forms closely. **Students whose parents have NOT completed the COVID clearance forms will NOT be allowed to attend school on Tuesday, January 19 in person.**

Phase THREE?



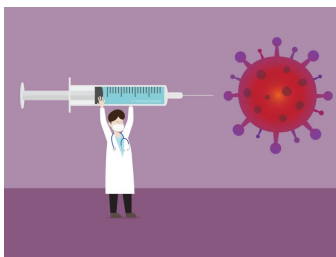
Some parents have asked about the move to Phase THREE with the hope of increasing the numbers of students within the schools. The [NJ Department of Health](#) and the [CDC](#) are both reporting increases in positive cases, with a nationwide increase of 16% in the past 7 days over the 7 days before that. Changing course and opening school to more students wouldn't be prudent at this time. We cannot ensure 6 feet of distance between students in classrooms that have more than half of their students. The elementary students eat snacks in classrooms each day, and the middle and high school students change classes every period. The virus is airborne, and the new strains of the virus [may mean more cases in schools](#). Strict mitigation measures are keeping schools safe places, and we do not want to change that for our students, staff and school community.

We will continue with our blue (A)/gold (B) hybrid instructional model until there are marked improvements in positivity rates in the region. We understand there were some students who chose to work remotely **ONLY** for the period of time prior to the December break. Those students can return to their previously assigned blue or gold schedules. Beyond that, we are not adding students to the blue and gold groups. Families may still elect to keep their children on purely virtual instruction (C). If you have any questions or concerns about your own children, please contact your principal.



NJ DOH GUIDANCE on Managing Student and Family Illnesses - [NJDOH COVID 19 Information Hub](#)

1. The most recent guidance from the department of health is very specific for addressing illness during this time: “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 a negative viral test (molecular or antigen) for SARS-CoV-2 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.** Should you have any questions please contact your school nurse or your family physician.
2. If **anyone in your household** has any COVID related symptoms (fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea), **ALL** of the people in your household should quarantine until medical testing clears that individual from having COVID (see red above).
3. Should anyone in your household be awaiting a COVID test result because they have or may have come into contact with a COVID positive person, **ALL MEMBERS OF THE HOUSEHOLD** should REMAIN under quarantine, until that person in your household has a negative test result. Keep in mind the incubation period for showing symptoms can be up to 14 days.
4. **If any individual in your household has traveled within the last 14 days, or plans to travel over the long weekend, please follow [THIS GUIDANCE](#) from the NJDOH.**
5. Remember, there is no attendance penalty for moving your children to purely virtual learning should any of these instances occur. But you must inform your principal or school nurse of these instances. We continue to monitor the health of our students.



COVID VACCINES

If you are interested in getting your COVID Vaccines, find out who is eligible, and pre-register [HERE](#).



It is NOT too late! If you have not already done so, please immunize yourself and your children against influenza. Although wearing masks and keeping hands clean are two important preventative measures for maintaining overall health, the [CDC recommends](#) all people above the age of six months get the flu vaccine each year, and particularly this year. If you are unsure if you or your children should be vaccinated, please speak with your own health care professional.



Registration for AlphaBEST before and aftercare is open. AlphaBEST will be serving the Saddle Brook School District through June. [REGISTER HERE!](#)

Looking for **employment** opportunities with AlphaBEST? Find out more [HERE](#).



High School athletics is starting; the measures to keep students and coaches safe are strict, and must be followed for the athletes to continue playing. The NJSIAA continues to provide [guidance](#) on implementing state parameters for athletics. So if you are a parent of an athlete, please ensure your athletes are prioritizing their own health and the collective health of their teammates with safe practices outside of school or practice. You can review the NJDOH guidance for sports [HERE](#).



FREE MEALS PROGRAM

ALL students are now eligible for free lunch through a special Federal meals program. No free or reduced status is required. Please be sure to take advantage of this opportunity each day. Once returned to the hybrid setting, Pre K-6 Elementary students can place orders with their homeroom teachers. Middle and High school students can “grab and go” before dismissal each day. Remote students or parents can pick up for their children each day Mondays through Friday at the high school concession stand, at the back of the parking lot from 8:30 AM - 12 PM. No prior registration is required.

If you have any questions or concerns about food services, please contact Tom Deptula at foodservices@sbpsnj.org or 201.843.2880 ext 2313.



COMMITTEE TO EXPLORE THE FUTURE OF BEFORE AND AFTERCARE

This [SURVEY](#) was launched to establish the needs and priorities of parents regarding before and aftercare for their children. We are reaching out to our pre-school and elementary parents who may need to utilize before and aftercare in the future beyond this school year. The survey is for families with children entering Pre K-6 in September 2021. The committee will be meeting again on Thursday, January 14 at 7PM, and on Sunday, January 17 at 6PM.

**Monday, January 18, SCHOOL is CLOSED for Dr. MLK Jr. Observance
NO VIRTUAL LEARNING**

Wishing you a restful long weekend,

Danielle M. Stanley