

SADDLE BROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Danielle M. Shanley

Superintendent of Schools

COVID-19 School Notification - Positive COVID-19 Case in School

February 24, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that we have multiple new cases within the district:

- 1. An individual at Helen I. Smith School has tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). This individual was last in the building on Tuesday, 2/23/21, and was not symptomatic at the time. The individual presented with symptoms on Wednesday, 2/24/21, and tested positive for COVID. As part of our protocol, the Bergen County Health Department was contacted. The District is coordinating closely with public health officials and following CDC, state, county and local health department guidance in order to assure the health and safety of our community. All staff and students identified as "close contact" have been traced and contacted by the school staff.
- 2. Four individuals at the Middle/High School have tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). These individuals were NOT present in the school building with symptoms, nor during the 48 hour lookback period. As part of our protocol, the Bergen County Health Department was contacted. The District is coordinating closely with public health officials and following CDC, state, county and local health department guidance in order to assure the health and safety of our community. This is not a contact tracing notification. The time frame indicates no one from the district needs to quarantine. If any further developments occur, you will be notified in a timely manner. Close contact is defined by the NJDOH.

Cleaning and disinfecting of all exposed areas is being completed. The school is also taking precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of viruses and other germs, cleaning frequently touched surfaces daily, multiple times daily, and sometimes by the hour. We utilize numerous approved disinfecting and cleaning products that destroy COVID-19 as well as other viruses and bacteria. We are monitoring the status of this situation very closely.

We understand the level of concern regarding COVID-19. We encourage parents and students to continue following the <u>Centers for Disease Control & Prevention</u> promoted safeguards, such as:

- Avoiding social gatherings;
- Staying home when you are sick;
- Washing hands often with soap often and 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;
- Getting a flu shot to prevent taxing the medical systems with flu outbreak; and
- Continuing to monitor your health for COVID related symptoms.

As always, we appreciate our community's support and cooperation. You can assist us by remaining vigilant but sensible in your approach to dealing with this health concern. We are relying on parents to guide their children in making good choices about social distancing and mask wearing when outside of school. Inattention to these matters can eventually bring the virus into the schools and impact all of the good work we are trying to do. Should you have any questions about this situation, please feel free to contact your school nurse or your principal.

With all good wishes for continued health,

Januelle M. Shanley

See COVID-19 RESOURCES HERE