



SADDLE BROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Danielle M. Shanley
Superintendent of Schools

COVID-19 REMOTE School Notification - Positive COVID-19 Cases in School

March 29, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that we have **6 new cases** within the district:

1. **TWO individuals** at the **Middle/High School** have **tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**. One individual was not in the building during the contagious period. One individual was last in the building on March 25 and was apparently contagious at the time. **Multiple groups of students and staff members must quarantine for 14 days. Each affected individual will receive a phone call and email from the HS staff.**

There will be **NO athletics and NO extra/co-curricular activities through Tuesday, April 6.**
In person athletics and extra/co-curricular activities can resume on **Wednesday, April 7, 2021.**
In-person instruction at the MS/HS will resume on **Tuesday, April 20th.**

2. **Two more individuals** at **Franklin School** tested positive for **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**. These individuals were last in the school on March 23 and March 26, 2021, and were apparently contagious at the time. **Multiple groups of students and staff members must quarantine for 14 days. Each affected individual has already received a phone call and email from the Franklin School staff. These two cases make for a total of three disconnected cases within less than 14 days time, which is criteria for a shift to remote instruction for the next three days. In addition, we do not have the substitute coverage to address the staffing implications. The school will be fully remote and return to in person instruction on Tuesday, April 20, 2021.**
3. **Two more individuals** at **Smith School** tested positive for **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**. Neither individual was in the school building during the contagious period. **This is not a contact tracing notification.** No one has to quarantine as a result.

“Quarantine” is defined by the NJDOH as the physical separation and confinement of an individual or groups of individuals, who are or may have been exposed to a communicable or possibly communicable disease and who do not show signs or symptoms of a communicable disease, from unexposed individuals, to prevent or limit the transmission of the disease to unexposed individuals. Individuals who are quarantined must remain HOME for the entire time. We are finding individuals (in district) who are showing symptoms on days 12, 13 and 14 of their quarantine periods. These guidelines are very important to prevent community spread. With the upcoming holidays, we remain very concerned about gatherings and spread of the virus.

****Reminder: As of April 20, ALL SCHOOLS will be in the combined cohort phase with all students eligible for 4 days of in person instruction each week. As of April 20, there will be NO MORE blue and gold cohorts! All Students will attend school 4 days a week in person, OR be fully remote.**

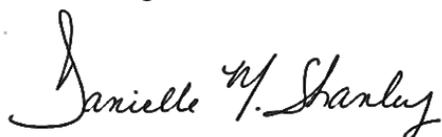
*****April 20 is also a date for remote students to return to in-person instruction. Should you want your remote child to return to in-person instruction, you MUST contact your child’s principal, VP or counselor.**

As part of our protocol, the Bergen County Health Department is always 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. **If any further developments occur, you will be notified in a timely manner. [PLEASE REVIEW UPDATED CDC GUIDANCE for Schools HERE](#).** After weeks of decline, the State is seeing increases in caes. You can view the [Coronavirus Tracker here](#). The region and district is still in the **ORANGE zone**. The district will continue to analyze the state and regional data, and the local positive COVID case numbers to protect the health and safety of the students and staff before we make any additional changes to our schedule. The decisions we make **MUST** be data driven.

Any suggestion that what we are dealing with as a district is a sports related “outbreak” is simply untrue. We are not seeing a defined “outbreak” within the district, and athletes are not responsible for these cases, nor have they spread COVID in the district. What we are seeing is community spread, county spread, statewide spread. Both adults and students have been blaming COVID-19 positive individuals for school closures. This is unjust. No single person is responsible for any school closure. And no one is exempt from contracting this virus or spreading it. This district takes harassment, intimidation and bullying of our students very seriously, and we will swiftly and appropriately discipline our students who engage in harmful behaviors directed at their peers. Simply, we must stop the blame game, and exercise more compassion.

With the upcoming holidays, family gatherings and anticipated travel arrangements, I cannot emphasize enough the need to remain vigilant during the next few weeks. Your attention outside of school will determine whether or not the doors stay open. You can assist us by remaining safe and sensible in your approach to dealing with this health concern. Please do your part.

With all good wishes for continued health,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Danielle M. Stanley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**NJ [Travel Advisory](#) Information
NJDOE [The Road Forward](#)
Register for the vaccine [HERE](#)**