



STAFFORD TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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"BUILDING A BETTER WORLD ONE STUDENT AT A TIME"

January 4, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a wonderful holiday break with your families. With the uptick of COVID-19, the district will continue to implement daily student/staff screenings, social distancing, mask wearing, and cleaning protocols.

We received guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) regarding the recent changes from the CDC regarding isolations and quarantines specific to positive COVID cases and close contacts. All schools must continue to adhere to the NJDOH guidance until the CDC publishes information that is specific to schools which may include changes regarding positive COVID case isolation and quarantine timeframes. Therefore, until we hear otherwise, the following remains in place:

- **Close contacts** must quarantine for 7 days with a negative test with a return to school on day 8 or 10 days without testing and a return to school on day 11.
- **Household close contacts** (individuals who can not isolate within their house) must quarantine for 10 days and then may test day 15, 16, or 17 with a negative test and return to school day 18. Household contacts who choose not to test may return to school on day 21 (a total quarantine period of 20 days).
- **All positive COVID cases** must quarantine for 10 days.
- **If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 from a lab test**, he/she is exempt from having to quarantine as a close contact for 90 days from the positive test.

If your child tested positive for COVID-19 over the break or they are unable to return due to exposure, parents should inform their child's building school nurse and they will inform you of the return date. We are currently in the process of setting up an *optional* COVID-19 close contact "Test to Stay" program, as well as *optional* weekly COVID-19 testing for students. Information will be sent regarding these separate programs later this week.

As always, we continue to monitor staff and student COVID-19 cases and are prepared to pivot to virtual learning if needed; however, our goal is to continue with in-person instruction. Thank you for your patience, understanding, and continued support.

Sincerely,

George J. Chidiac
Superintendent of Schools