



*Florham Park Public Schools*  
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November 23, 2020

**RE: NJDOH Updated Guidelines - High Risk Category (Quarantine Changes)**

Dear Florham Park Parents/Guardians and Staff,

As you may be aware, the majority of New Jersey was recently moved from a *Moderate Risk* to a *High Risk* category according to the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). Each category presents different guidelines and procedures to follow, becoming more restrictive the higher the risk category. Morris County has entered the *High Risk- Orange category* and a copy of the NJDOH guidelines for school districts to follow have been attached for you to review. The Florham Park School District will therefore be adhering to these guidelines starting today, Monday, November 23, 2020. The school nurses and principals have already met to discuss these guidelines, and this communication and its content was also reviewed/approved by our local health department.

**As per the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) - High Risk - Orange category:**

1. If a person presents compatible symptoms (see below), then every household contact AND close contacts of that person must quarantine until the person is tested negative for COVID. This means that if one of my children develops a fever and cough, my other child, my wife, and I all must quarantine from the in-person school environment, including close contacts at school, as per the NJDOH. The only way to end the quarantine is if the symptomatic person tests negative for COVID, or the required NJDOH quarantine timeframe has expired. Therefore, please do NOT send your child to school if any member of your household is symptomatic.
2. If a person has taken a COVID test and is awaiting the result, then every household contact of that person must quarantine from the in-person school environment until the test result comes back and is negative, as per the NJDOH. This means that if one of my family members is being tested for COVID, all members of my household must quarantine until the COVID test comes back negative, or quarantine required timelines are met as per the NJDOH.

**COVID-19 Symptoms:** For school settings, the NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- Two or more of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose;  
- OR -
- One or more of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

Please find a copy of the matrix attached to page 2. The full NJDOH document that has been updated on November 19, 2020 can be found on the following [NJDOH link](#). Again, these are the guidelines set forth by the NJDOH.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation and support during these trying times.

Sincerely,

*Steven Caponegro*

Dr. Steven Caponegro

*"Nothing in life is to be feared; it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less." - Marie Curie*

Attc: NJDOH COVID-19 Exclusion Table (updated Nov.19, 2020)

cc: Mr. Thomas Cantisano, Florham Park Health Officer

**COVID-19 Exclusion Table:** *Exclusion criteria for staff, students and close contacts*

	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk
<b>COVID-19 positive</b> (viral test), symptomatic or asymptomatic	Exclude according to <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>  Work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts for 14 days from last exposure	Exclude according to <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>  Work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts for 14 days from last exposure	Exclude according to <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>  Work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts for 14 days from last exposure	<b>Not Applicable (remote learning)</b>
<b>COVID-19 symptoms but not tested for COVID-19</b>	If no potential exposure to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, individual can follow <a href="#">NJDOH School Exclusion List</a>  If person has potential exposure to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, exclude according to <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>	Exclude according to <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>	Exclude according to <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>  Work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts for 14 days from last exposure, or until symptomatic individual tests negative for COVID-19	
<b>COVID-19 symptoms and negative COVID-19 test</b> (viral test)	Exclude individual through 24 hours after their fever has ended without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms improve	Exclude individual through 24 hours after their fever has ended without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms improve	Exclude individual through 24 hours after their fever has ended without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms improve	
<b>Close contact</b> Of staff or student with COVID-19 or to someone who has <a href="#">COVID-19 compatible symptoms</a> (high risk level only) *	Close contacts of a COVID-19 case should be excluded through 14 days from date of last contact	Close contacts of a COVID-19 case should be excluded through 14 days from date of last contact	Close contacts of a COVID-19 case should be excluded through 14 days from date of last contact  Close contacts of an individual with <b>COVID-19 compatible symptoms</b> should be excluded through 14 days from date of last contact, or until ill individual tests negative for COVID-19	

**\*Note: Siblings of a student who has symptoms and meets [COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria](#) should be excluded from school until the symptomatic individual receives a negative test result. If the symptomatic individual tests positive, the sibling will need to [self-quarantine](#).**