



## BLAIRSTOWN TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dr. Patrick Ketch, *Superintendent*

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Dr. Brian James, *Supervisor of Special Services*

January 13, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

On January 11, 2022, the New Jersey DOH updated its COVID-19 guidelines. At this time, BES will be moving forward with these new guidelines. Our goal is for students to be present at school. The new guidelines will allow for students to have a shorter quarantine timeframe (5 days) and to return to school sooner. Please see the following:

### **Isolation and Quarantine Revised Guidelines**

#### **Persons who test positive for COVID-19 and are symptomatic or persons with COVID-19 symptoms who weren't tested or who are waiting for test results**

- Stay home and isolate yourself from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the first day of symptoms).
  - If symptoms resolve (fever-free for 24 hours and other symptoms improve), isolation can end after 5 full days and return to school on day 6.
  - If symptoms persist (fever or if other symptoms have not improved), continue to isolate until fever-free for 24 hours and other symptoms have improved. Please contact the school on day 6 to inform them of ongoing symptoms.

#### **Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but have no symptoms**

- Stay home and isolate yourself from other people for at least 5 full days (day 0 is the day of the positive viral test).
  - If no symptoms develop, isolation can end after 5 full days and return to school on day 6.
  - If symptoms develop within one week of the positive test, the 5-day isolation period starts over with day 0 being the first day of symptoms. Follow recommendations for ending isolation for persons who have COVID-19 symptoms and contact the school.

## **Quarantine Protocols for Close Contacts**

Individuals who are identified as having had close contact with someone with COVID-19 need to quarantine and should take additional precautions during and after quarantine.

### **During quarantine**

- Stay home and away from other people for at least 5 days (day 0 through day 5) after the last close contact with a person who has COVID-19. The date of the exposure is considered day 0.
- If COVID-19 symptoms develop, get tested and follow isolation recommendations.
- If asymptomatic, the CDC recommends getting tested at least 5 days after the last close contact. However, it is not required in order to be able to return to school on day 6. If the test is positive, follow isolation recommendations.

Individuals identified as close contacts but do not need to quarantine based on CDC guidelines should wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days. It is suggested by the CDC that you can be tested at least 5 days after the last close contact. However, this is not necessary for school purposes. If you do get tested and the test is positive or if COVID-19 symptoms develop, follow isolation recommendations.

Persons having close contact with someone who has completed their isolation period but who are still taking additional precautions through day 10 are not considered exposed for the purpose of quarantine but should self-monitor for symptoms for 10 days.

Please reach out with any questions.

Dr. Patrick Ketch  
Superintendent