



TPS Community –

We hope that each and every one of you has had a safe, happy, and healthy holiday break. As we plan for our return to school next Monday, January 3rd, we share the below to inform or remind you of COVID-related procedures and guidelines.

Latest CDC Guidance

Although we are aware that the CDC updated its guidelines relative to quarantining when diagnosed with or exposed to COVID-19, these guidelines do not apply to New Jersey schools at this time. If the NJDOH updates its guidelines for New Jersey schools, we will share the updates with you and update the information on our website.

Testing

We encourage everyone, vaccinated and unvaccinated, but especially those who have traveled or participated in large gatherings with people outside of their household over the break, to follow the current CDC and state recommendations for testing and to self-monitor for symptoms.

In addition, there has been some discussion relative to requiring COVID testing for students upon their return to school after the break. Although we understand the suggestion, testing represents a “snapshot” in time and is of little value without a continuous screening program. A true negative test only means COVID was not detectable at the specific time of testing.

Daily Symptom Tracker

We are mutually dependent on each other’s honesty and integrity throughout the year, trusting that each of us will report the symptoms and/or test results as accurately as possible. Please use your best judgement in determining whether or not to send your student to school. The daily symptom tracker is designed to help each of us make this decision more accurately and easily.

We will continue to monitor the cases in our district. Although the Omicron variant continues to affect case numbers, the actual number of reported cases remains low relative to the number of individuals within our schools. We will continue to report these number on our [COVID Dashboard](#).

COVID Exclusion Virtual Instruction

Finally, although we cannot comment on what other districts may have put in place, please be reminded that the NJDOE does not offer districts the option of going virtual as a preventative measure or as an open option for families. Virtual instruction in any district is to be at the recommendation of/in coordination with health officials in response to spread or COVID case data reported by the district. While students and families can certainly make the decision to not attend school, only students who meet the COVID-Exclusion criteria are granted virtual access. For details, visit the [COVID-Exclusion Criteria and Timeframes page on the TPS website](#).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We ask each of our staff and students to be vigilant in wearing masks where potential exposure is present, to ensure that masks are snug fitting, and that each individual carries a clean mask to change into as needed during the school day. If and when additional details become available, we will reach out to you again with any associated changes or guidance. Enjoy the rest of the break and we look forward to seeing all of you on Monday.