



**Community Middle School Open for Hybrid Instruction Monday, Sept. 21
(Email: Sept. 18, 2020)**

To our CMS families,

As a follow-up to Tuesday evening's message regarding a CMS teacher who had tested positive for COVID-19, the District has conducted deep cleaning and assisted the Middlesex County Health Department conduct their contact tracing. Contact tracing allows the local health department to identify any staff member or student who has had close contact with an individual that tests positive for COVID-19. The NJ Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention define the term "close contact" as being within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual for a period of 10 minutes. Under these guidelines, it does not matter if a staff member or a student is wearing a mask as proximity matters in the contraction of COVID-19. Contact tracers look at time, distance, risk exposure and whereabouts of a COVID-19 positive individual from 48 hours before the emergence of symptoms through to the start of the quarantine date.

As a result of the CMS COVID-19 positive teacher, five additional staff members must quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure. The district will continue to follow the highest safety protocols and will always err on the side of health and safety when making a determination to institute a school closure. Based on the school district's and Middlesex County Health Department's investigation, no students have been identified as needing to quarantine. As such, **students assigned to Hybrid Week #1 will return to school beginning Monday, Sept. 21.** Any staff member under quarantine will be meeting their students virtually as long as the teacher is well enough to conduct class. In-person students whose teachers are working remotely due to quarantine will be supervised while at Community Middle School.

It is important to note that our safety and security plan ensures that each classroom is physically setup to avoid close contact between staff members and students. Health protocols are in place as following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the NJ Department of Health and the NJ Department of Education as outlined in the Road Back Plan. The use of PPE, physical distancing of staff and students, the utilization of masks, and the District cleaning protocols are all designed to minimize the possibility of COVID-19 spread.



We encourage all CMS families to continue to monitor your children for symptoms. We ask that you notify the administration and school nurse if additional concerns arise. For families of Hybrid Week #1 students, please continue to complete the Daily Health Screening form each day this coming week that you will be in-person.

If there is any change to our return to in-person instruction on Monday, families will be notified over the weekend.

Sincerely,

David Aderhold, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools