



Superintendent's Report August 26, 2021

There are only seven days until students return to school! We are excited to welcome back all students to full-day, in-person instruction on September 2, 2021. The principals have sent information to parents about teacher assignments, schedules, and about completing the daily health questionnaire in the Realtime Student Information System each morning. We apologize to anyone who had a glitch in connecting to Realtime, but I have been told the problem has been corrected. If you are still having difficulty logging in to Realtime, please contact the secretary at your child's school.

As of today, the northeast region of New Jersey is in moderate transmission rate according to the COVID-19 Activity Level Report for the week ending August 21, 2021. We must all continue to work together as a community to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 here in Closter. To that end, please be reminded that all students, staff and visitors will be required to wear a mask when inside Hillside Elementary School and Tenakill Middle School. We encourage parents to begin having students wear masks ahead of returning to school so they become acclimated to wearing them throughout the day. Students will have mask breaks scheduled throughout the day. In the schools, we will practice three feet of social distancing, to the extent possible. We encourage all students 12 years of age or older to get vaccinated. When quarantine is necessary, we will observe the following guidelines:

COVID-19 Activity Level Report	Low	Moderate	High	Very High
Fully vaccinated students and staff	No quarantine required	No quarantine required	No quarantine required	No quarantine required
Unvaccinated students and staff	10 days from exposure with no symptoms, or 7 days with a negative test collected at 5-7 days	10 days from exposure with no symptoms, or 7 days with a negative test collected at 5-7 days	14 days	14 days

Students who are unvaccinated will need to quarantine after returning from any U.S. state or territory beyond the immediate region (New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania and Delaware). The recommendations are as follows:

- 14 days is the recommended length of quarantine. However, if you cannot meet this recommendation you have two options:
 - No-test option: Stay home for 10 days and monitor for symptoms. If you remain asymptomatic, your quarantine can end after the 10th day.
 - Test option: Stay home for 7 days. Get tested with a viral test (molecular- PCR or antigen) between day 5-7 and remain home until results are obtained. If you test negative, and remain asymptomatic, you may return after the 7th day.

So, for unvaccinated students who haven't returned from travel by Monday, August 23, 2021, please contact the school nurse to let her know that you will have to quarantine. We will begin live-stream instruction for quarantined students on September 3, 2021. Please note that the live-stream instruction is permitted only for students who have to quarantine due to COVID-19 illness, close contact with someone who has COVID-19, or travel-related quarantine. The live-stream instruction is not permitted while a student is traveling or for students who are absent due to any other illness.

This week we held our staff orientation for eleven newly-hired employees. The new teachers and staff all seemed excited to be joining our district and are ready to welcome students on September 2, 2021. Thank you to the administrative team for their work on preparing the orientation and to Ms. Kate Maher, who represented the Closter Education Association in welcoming the new hires to our district.

Thank you to our Closter PTO who will provide a breakfast for faculty, staff and administrators on September 1, 2021, which is their first day of the school year. Due to the pandemic, the breakfast will be outside. Following the breakfast, teachers and staff will move inside for the start-of-the-year meetings in the morning and will have the afternoon for final planning for students' arrival the next day.

Again, I look forward to the return of our teachers and full staff on September 1, 2021, and our students on September 2, 2021. Be certain that administrators, faculty and staff will work diligently, as always, to ensure a wonderful school year filled with learning for our students!

Vincent Mc Hale