



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

I trust that you are all well and enjoyed the beautiful weekend. Today, I am writing to you to communicate items related to vaccinations, district reporting, and student privacy matters. Please see below and have a great day.

1.) Our first positive covid-19 student case was reported over the weekend at Strawbridge School, and our nursing staff moved swiftly to complete the contract tracing and notifications. It is important that when cases are identified that you are aware of the following:

- We will update our live district spreadsheet in "real-time " every day by 4 pm, which will serve as a reporting mechanism. Individual emails will not be distributed district-wide to respect everyone's email inbox, but please feel free to check the Covid-19 spreadsheet daily if you are interested in this information. The change in this formatting resulted from strong parent feedback during the 2020-2021 school year, and we were happy to make this adjustment. <https://www.haddontwpschools.com/domain/405> (will be updated today by 4 pm)
- The parents of students who are deemed close contacts will receive—a telephone call from the school nurse and not rely on the school website.
- Current reporting and confidentiality requirements currently allow us to report ***only if the case was for a staff member or student and the building in which it occurred***. Last year, when we were reporting additional details such as the grade level in which the positive case was identified, I was informed by the health department about our violation of privacy. (I don't necessarily agree with them, but we must comply with these medical reporting restrictions, which are a serious matter)

2) In regards to student vaccination status, students are not questioned by staff members. **Only our school nurses should inquire of student vaccination status**, via the individual medical card, during the contact tracing process or when a student visits the nurse's office.

3.) In recent days, several community members have received telephone calls from the "NJ COVID-19 Call Center," offering to assist students or family members with vaccines, and some have speculated of how the call center had your contact information. **Please be assured that our school district does not share any of your**

data or information with outside agencies, including the New Jersey Department of Health. Our only exemption is if there was a police matter or an after-hours student safety concern or emergency. If you receive a telephone from this call center, you have likely signed up for Covid alerts from the State of New Jersey at some point in the past and have shared your contact information. They are simply calling to offer assistance to New Jersey families who may need help knowing how to be vaccinated.

As always, thank you very much for your support, and have a great day.

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed.D.
Superintendent