



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

September 30, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff,

I want to take an opportunity to update you on school safety and Covid-19 related items. Please see the information below, and have a great day.

Change in Protocol

The rate of transmission in Camden County recently increased from the moderate risk zone to the high-risk zone. As a result, we are shifting attendance eligibility for siblings of students who have (2) or more covid-like symptoms and are awaiting test results. Effective today, students awaiting Covid-19 test results **and all unvaccinated siblings** should stay home from school until a negative test result is received.

Vaccinated siblings are eligible to attend school if no symptoms are present. Please also be reminded that your child should be wearing a well-fitted mask covering their mouth and nose as a way to comply with school regulations and promote universal safety.

School Reporting Requirements

When a positive covid-19 case is confirmed, our live dashboard is updated immediately and available to the public in real-time. This procedure eliminates the continuous emails of formality that provide you with notification, and you can access the information here: <https://www.haddontwpschools.com/domain/405>

According to school contract tracing procedures, we do **not** believe that any of our (9) total positive covid cumulative cases resulted from in-school transmission.

School Reporting Restrictions

In recent weeks, I have received many emails requesting additional information about our confirmed cases. This morning, I had a telephone call with the New Jersey Department of Health, who confirmed that the only information that the school district can legally release is the school building where the cases occurred and whether the positive result was for a student or staff member. Furthermore, only individuals who have been deemed close contacts (within 3-feet masked or 6-feet unmasked for 15 minutes or more) can be notified of the setting or classroom where the positive case occurred. These restrictions aim to balance public safety with individual privacy, and our school district will continue to follow these reporting requirements.

Covid-19 Testing and Vaccinations

According to New Jersey law, all public school employees must be vaccinated **by October 18th, 2021**, or comply with weekly testing requirements. Our school district has partnered with a private agency to facilitate testing on-site for all unvaccinated staff. Furthermore, testing on-site will soon be accessible for students. Covid-19 testing at local pharmacies has not been as accessible compared to the spring, and we will be happy to provide this service. We will also be looking into the potential of offering on-site vaccinations and exploring pool testing for interested individuals. Regarding student testing and vaccinations, this will be voluntary only and contingent on parent consent.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge and applaud all of the dedication and efforts of the Haddon Township School Nursing Team. These individuals are the first point of contact when you have a question and they lead our contact tracing process. Please join me in expressing gratitude and appreciation on their behalf because each of them has been steadfast and resilient in this public health crisis while managing so many extra responsibilities this year. Thank you very much for your support and have a great day.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Fisicaro, Ed.D.
Superintendent