

Moonachie Public Schools

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Moonachie Families & Friends –

This is just a quick update to the information we shared with the community on Friday, in regards to symptoms of COVID-19 and transitioning classrooms to Remote Instruction when a symptom, or symptoms, are experienced while in school.

The New Jersey Department of Health sent all pediatricians and schools clarified guidance this week. The clarifications include the breakdown of 2-symptoms and 1-symptoms criteria. These criteria will determine if a COVID-19 PCR test is required to return to school, or if an alternative diagnosis is acceptable.

Students need to be tested for COVID-19 (or complete the isolation period) if they meet the following criteria.

At least two of the following symptoms:

Fever, chills, myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose;

OR

At least one of the following symptoms:

Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, and new loss of taste or smell."

COVID-19 testing is not required for students who do not meet either of the above criteria to return to school.

Additionally, this guidance provides us with some clarity on transition classrooms to Fully Remote based on the symptom categories above.

1) ANY 1-symptom from the 2-symptom category (as required by Bergen County DOH), that child will be excluded from LIVE Instruction and sent to get cleared by their doctor, whom may order a COVID-19 test. An alternative diagnosis is acceptable in this scenario. The classroom will remain OPEN. (This has been our practice since September, and remains unchanged).

2) If 2-Symptoms occur from the 2-symptom category, the class will transition to remote instruction, until the individual obtains a NEGATIVE PCR Test, or completes the isolation period.

3) ANY 1-symptom from the 1-symptom category, the class will transition to remote instruction, until the individual obtains a NEGATIVE PCR Test, or completes the isolation period.

Please remember, any POSITIVE COVID-19 Test, the contact tracing prior to symptoms, and the required quarantines/remote learning, as we have done since September, is unchanged.

Please remember chronic illness and chronic symptoms are acceptable diagnosis for any of the categories. The criteria above, refers to new symptoms or symptoms worse than baseline.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me at jknipper@moonachieschool.org or (201) 641-5833. These guidelines are fluid and changing daily. Our team is working diligently with the Department of Health to follow all guidelines and communicate to families as quickly as we can. Stay well.

Sincerely,
James S. Knipper
Superintendent/Principal

