



Ridgefield Public Schools

...valuing each and every student

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Dr. Letizia Pantoliano
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Julyana Ortiz
Business Administrator

November 12, 2020

Dear Families:

This letter is to inform you that an individual at Bergen Boulevard School has tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and an individual at Shaler Academy was a close contact of someone that has tested positive for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The District is coordinating closely with Ridgefield public health officials and following CDC, state, and local health department guidance in order to assure the health and safety of our community. In any case where a teacher is required to quarantine because *either* the individual or a contact of the individual has tested positive for COVID-19, out of an abundance of caution, the class will be virtual during the quarantine period. This will also promote educational stability for the students involved.

Cleaning and disinfecting of all exposed areas has been completed. The school is also taking precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of viruses and other germs and is cleaning frequently touched surfaces daily.

All **close contacts** of the laboratory-confirmed cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) have been identified and notified if they were required to quarantine for 14 days. A close contact is someone who was within 6 feet of a confirmed case of COVID-19 for at least 10 minutes. These are unrelated cases. The status of this situation is fluid, and we are monitoring it closely.

We understand the level of concern regarding COVID-19. We encourage parents and students to continue following the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) promoted safeguards, such as:

- Staying home when you are sick;
- Washing hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
- Wearing a face covering while in school; and
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms.

As always, we appreciate our community's support and cooperation. You can assist us by remaining vigilant but sensible in your approach to dealing with this health concern and filling

out the Daily COVID-19 form when you come into the school building. Should you have any questions about this situation, please feel free to contact your building principal or school nurse. Below are some resources that might be helpful.

RESOURCES

- a. NJDOH COVID-19 Information for Communities and the General Public: https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml
- b. Get the Facts about Coronavirus: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- c. Symptoms of COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- d. Testing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/index.html>; <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing>
- e. How to Protect Yourself: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>
- f. What to Do if You Are Sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

Sincerely,

Dr. Letizia Pantoliano

Interim Superintendent, Ridgefield Public Schools