



Megan N. Bozios, Superintendent

Oradell Public School District

*Our children,
our hope,
our future*

November 12, 2021

Dear OPS Community Members,

As we hit the first quarter mark of our school year, we have much to celebrate. Our children transitioned back to a full day of school. Our lunch protocols are up and running, including the return of PTA lunches. We enjoyed Fall Fest, celebrated Halloween, and next week will shop at the Holiday Boutique. With the return of more typical OPS activities, it is easy to forget that the COVID-19 virus is still present.

We spend considerable time and effort each day putting protocols in place to create a safe environment where continuity of learning can occur. One obstacle that can impact our school days and the lives of our families is students quarantining. Therefore, we felt it important to review our current protocols.

- First, the current New Jersey Department of Health Guidelines state that quarantine is NOT required when a positive case is identified:
 - Students were 3 feet apart AND PROPERLY masked. (Properly masked means that both the nose and mouth are covered.)
 - The adult was SIX feet away and properly masked. (This means that a student and adult must be six feet apart or two adults must be six feet apart.)
 - Contact was less than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period.
 - Contact occurred more than 48 hours before the positive individual developed symptoms or (if there are no symptoms) when the test specimen was collected.
 - The individual who came in contact with the positive case has been fully vaccinated or it has been less than 90 days since the individual tested positive for COVID-19.
- Second, with indoor sports about to begin, it is important to recognize that the New Jersey Department of Health also has guidelines for youth sports. Close contact in youth sports is defined as persons being within 6 feet for greater than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. In a sport like basketball or hockey, this will likely include an entire team and an opposing team. In a sport like wrestling, this will depend on whether contact occurred during a practice or during a match.

- The duration of the quarantine period is determined by our regional risk level. Currently, our region is at moderate risk. Therefore, quarantine is a minimum of 7 days with a negative PCR test result. The test result specimen must be collected between day 5 and day 7. In the absence of a test, the quarantine period is 10 days. As our regional risk level changes, so will the quarantine period.

Recently, the Pfizer vaccine was approved for emergency use in children ages 5 through 11. As a District, we acknowledge that vaccination is a private family decision and have instructed our staff not to speak about vaccination in the classroom. However, with some students becoming vaccinated, a quarantine mandate divide will be created. Fully vaccinated students (2 weeks after their second vaccination dose) will not need to quarantine if they come in close contact with a COVID positive individual. They will also not need to quarantine after traveling internationally. (Currently, OPS is not implementing a domestic travel quarantine.)

To reiterate, we encourage each family to make decisions they believe to be in the best interest of their children. If you choose to vaccinate your child, you can reach out to your child's pediatrician to set up an appointment or find an appointment [here](#). Although voluntary, providing proof of vaccination to the school nurse once your child is fully vaccinated, will assist us operationally.

Whether you choose to vaccinate or not, it is important to remember to:

- Teach your children to wash their hands often;
- Be aware of and alert to the symptoms of COVID-19;
- Not send children to school if they are sick;
- Expect that your child will wear their mask properly when required;
- Follow quarantine protocols.

In closing, I know we wish COVID-19 would just go away. However, I also know what we want most for our children is consistency of instruction, which will help them grow. Therefore, please continue to work collaboratively with the school to keep our children safe, to accept the guidelines put in place, and to be honest with regard to close contact both inside and outside the school environment.

As always, thank you for your continued support as we move forward together.

Sincerely,

Megan N. Bozios