

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

OPERATIONS
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Control of Communicable Disease
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8451 CONTROL OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

The Board of Education recognizes that control of the spread of communicable disease is essential to the well-being of the school community and to the efficient operation of the schools.

The Board will be bound by the statutes and by rules of the State Board of Education for the exclusion and readmission of students who have contracted a communicable disease and of teachers and students who have been exposed to a communicable disease and for the instruction of teachers in health and the prevention of disease. The Board will comply with regulations of the New Jersey Department of Health and the Essex County Board of Health governing the prevention, control, and reporting of communicable disease.

The teacher may exclude from the classroom and the Principal may exclude from the school building any student who appears to be ill or has been exposed to a communicable disease. A student may be isolated in school to await the arrival of or instructions from an adult member of the student's family. If the school medical inspector or the school nurse is present in the building, that professional's recommendation will be sought before any such exclusion or isolation is ordered.

Any student retained at home or excluded from school by reason of having or being suspected of having a communicable disease will not be readmitted to the student's classroom until the student presents written evidence of being free of communicable disease. That evidence may be supplied by the school medical inspector or another qualified physician who has examined the student.

Any student or adult who has weeping skin lesions that cannot be covered will be excluded from school.

The Superintendent will develop procedures for the control of communicable disease that include the instruction of teaching staff members in the detection of disease and measures for its prevention and control; the removal from school premises to the care of a responsible adult for students identified and excluded in accordance with this policy; the preparation of standards for the readmission of students who have recovered from communicable disease; the provision of appropriate home instruction to excluded students in accordance with law; and the filing of reports as required by law.

Pandemic Reopening and Recovery
Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is the process used to identify those who come into contact with people who have tested positive for many contagious diseases, including COVID-19. Contact tracing is used by health departments to prevent the spread of infectious disease. In general, contact tracing involves identifying people who have an infectious disease (cases) and their contacts (people who may have been exposed) and working with them to interrupt disease transmission. For COVID-19, this includes asking positive cases to isolate and contacts to quarantine at home voluntarily.

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All procedures will adhere to applicable federal and state law and regulations regarding privacy and the confidentiality of records.

Contact tracing for COVID-19 is done by the Health Department and typically involves:

A. Interviewing people with COVID-19 to identify everyone with whom they had close contact during the time they may have been infectious;

B. Notifying contacts of their potential exposure;

C. Referring contacts for testing;

D. Monitoring contacts for signs and symptoms of COVID-19; and

E. Connecting contacts with services they might need during the self-quarantine period.

To prevent the further spread of disease, COVID-19 contacts are encouraged to stay home and maintain social distance (at least 6 feet) from others until 14 days after their last exposure to a person with COVID-19. Contacts should monitor themselves by checking their temperature twice daily and watching for symptoms of COVID-19.

The school nurse shall consult with the local health department in the development, review and revision of the district contact tracing policy and procedures. The school nurse and the building principal are the designated staff liaisons responsible for providing notifications and carrying out other components of the board's contact tracing policy.

The school nurse in consultation with the building principal shall establish measures for a system of open communication that allows staff, students, and families to self-report symptoms and/or suspected exposure.

A staff member shall immediately notify the principal and the school nurse when **the staff member** ~~he/she~~ observes symptoms consistent with COVID 19 or becomes aware that an individual who has spent time in a district facility tests positive for COVID-19. The principal, superintendent, or school nurse shall immediately notify local health officials, who will provide next steps as to the notification of staff, and families of a confirmed case while maintaining confidentiality when the COVID-19 test is positive.

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When the individual exhibits symptoms the school nurse will ensure that the student is taken to the designated isolation area. The nurse will examine the individual and may refer the student for testing and treatment. A student exhibiting symptoms of COVID 19 may be required to submit to a COVID 19 test. The school nurse shall instruct student and family on quarantine or isolation procedures, if applicable, for the period of time directed by the local health department. The school nurse may require the certification of a physician that the student is contagion free before readmitting a student to school. The nurse shall report all students testing positive for COVID 19 to the health department. The health department shall conduct the contact tracing.

Symptoms of COVID 19 include:

A. A fever of 100° F or greater;

B. Cough;

C. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing;

D. Chills;

E. Repeated shaking with chills;

F. Muscle pain;

G. Headache;

H. Sore throat;

I. New loss of taste or smell;

J. Fatigue;

K. Congestion or runny nose;

L. Nausea or vomiting;

M. Diarrhea

All school and district administrators, school safety specialists, counselors, and any other staff deemed appropriate by the school and district, shall be provided information regarding the role of contact tracing in keeping school communities safe from the spread of contagious disease.

The school nurse or his or her designee may make information available and/or conduct virtual information sessions to educate the broader school community on the importance of contact tracing.

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N.J.S.A. 18A:40-3; 18A:40-7 et seq.; 26:4-4; 26:4-6
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-1.4; N.J.A.C. 8:57-1.3; 8:57-1.6; 8:57-2.1 et seq.;

Cross Reference: The NJDOE Guidance: *The Road Back: Restart and Recovery* at: <https://www.nj.gov/education/reopening/>

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~~Initial Previous~~ Adoptions: April 2, 2001 & May 13, 2019

First Reading: ~~April 29, 2019~~ August 17, 2020
Second Reading: ~~May 13, 2019~~ September 21, 2020
Latest Adoption: ~~May 13, 2019~~