



Little Falls Township Public Schools

Tracey Marinelli
Superintendent of Schools
973-256-1034
tmarinelli@lfschools.org



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Dear Families:

On Tuesday I wrote to inform you that we needed to go Virtual for the remainder of this week. The reason was not for the amount of positive cases, but rather the nature of this case:

- A district member of our crisis team was involved in a situation on Friday, January 22nd. This member, who has no contact with students, tested positive. Once we did our initial contact tracing we found that there were four additional staff members that also needed to be tested. This precluded us from being able to remain open. Two of those four staff members have since tested positive. None of these staff members have had contact with students. Please join me in wishing them well on their road to recovery.

In the meantime, while we have been on Virtual Instruction this week two students, unrelated to the above incident or each other, have tested positive. Until today any and all parents of students who were contacts were notified. This morning we learned of another positive individual at School 2. The nurse and principal are currently reviewing contact tracing and will be making the calls today. I understand how frustrating this entire process is. I understand that you all have work and home obligations. I appreciate that you need the information as quickly as possible to make decisions and arrangements for your family. We are doing everything we can. These decisions are not made in silos. They are made with our administrators, nurses, as well as local and county health professionals. They are made backed by science and they are made with each and every one of your situations in mind. Unfortunately, I cannot give you our exact return date in this letter. **That being said, we are expecting a nor'easter on Monday, February 1st so please plan for that to be a Virtual Instruction Day.** The health department is reviewing our data (number of cases and association between cases) and although I begged to have that information by yesterday, I am hopeful to have it by today. As soon as I receive it, I will provide our return date. I am pleading for the following:

- If you, your child, anyone in your household, or anyone your child has been with is not feeling well, even if you think it is allergies or the common cold, please keep them home until that has been confirmed. This helps to prevent entire classrooms and/or pods from being shut down. It also prevents others from getting sick.
- If you are participating in parties, weekend gatherings, vacations, please follow the guidelines set forth both for social distancing and for return to school. If at any point you have questions, please contact your school nurse, building principal, or me.
- Do not get your official school information from Facebook, neighbors or friends. All timely, open and honest communication regarding COVID cases, closures and reopenings will come directly from me as it has since March of 2020.

I want to again thank our faculty and staff for their commitment and dedication, our administrators for their leadership, the parents and caregivers for their support and flexibility, and most importantly our students for their resilience and strength during these difficult times.

Be well and stay safe,

Tracey Marinelli
Superintendent of Schools
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One District... One Team... One Vision...
32 Stevens Avenue, Little Falls, New Jersey 07424
www.lfschools.org