



COLTS NECK TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS

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November 30, 2021

Dear Colts Neck Parent / Guardian,

We are providing this notification consistent with the district's *Safe Return Plan*.

The district has received notice of two individuals who tested positive for COVID. One case is at Cedar Drive Middle School and is under investigation by county and local health officials. An investigation done in conjunction with health department representatives found that the school was likely not the source of transmission and there are no school-related close contacts associated with this case. The other case is at Conover Road Primary School and is also under investigation by county and local health officials. As always, individual privacy and confidentiality restrictions prevent us from sharing specific details about these individuals.

Please be advised that a specific cluster of confirmed COVID+ cases at Conover Road Primary School that is currently under investigation prompted the difficult decision to quarantine an entire class for fourteen (14) days. All parents/guardians of students and staff impacted by this decision have been notified. As a reminder, the district's *Safe Return Plan* was designed in partnership with local and county health officials to respond accordingly to COVID-related situations of this nature. The district's *Safe Return Plan*, along with additional information related to COVID-19, can be accessed on the district's website, <https://www.coltsneckschools.org/>, under the "COVID Information" tab.

To minimize the impact of COVID upon our school community, we remain committed to implementing our protocols and following recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and New Jersey Department of Health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines a close contact as an individual who is within 6 feet of someone with suspected or known COVID-19 for 15 or more minutes during a 24-hour period. In certain situations, it may be difficult to determine whether individuals have met this criterion and an entire cohort, classroom, or other groups may need to be considered exposed. **EXCEPTION** (updated August 2021): In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. This exception does not apply to teachers, staff, or other adults in the indoor classroom setting. Here is the COVID-19 Weekly Activity Level Report for the week ending November 20, 2021: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/>.

As we continue to address COVID-related situations that impact our students, staff, and families, we are grateful for the open lines of communication and partnerships with our Colts Neck families. On behalf of the Colts Neck Township Schools, we sincerely thank you for your continued cooperation, patience, and understanding.

Educationally yours,
Dr. MaryJane Garibay, Superintendent of Schools