

December 23, 2021

Glen Ridge School Community,

I want to thank the school community for working with the District to manage the pandemic. NJDOH protocols were recently updated, and I expect we will receive additional updates concerning the mask mandate, which expires January 11th; the implementation of the Test and Stay pilot program; and the need to combat new variants.

Like most other districts, we have experienced an uptick in new cases recently. In the past two days, thirteen (13) new cases were reported; seven at Ridgewood Avenue School and six at Glen Ridge High School. Many of those new cases involve individuals already in quarantine for close contact exposure, as well as individuals who had positive family members. The increased numbers locally and statewide are a reminder to everyone to remain vigilant in practicing safety protocols.

We ask that parents keep the school informed of any new cases during the break by emailing their children's school nurses and building administrators. We will monitor the numbers and consult with our health officials throughout the vacation. *Right now we intend to reopen for in-person instruction on January 3rd*, but reopening will be dependent on the conditions at that time. Prior to closing any school building(s) due to COVID-19 outbreaks, districts must consult their local health departments. This consultation determines whether or not closure is the most appropriate response to the circumstances in a given school building.

Before returning to school, we *strongly recommend* that your child be tested for COVID-19. Regular testing, in addition to COVID-19 vaccination, is a safe and effective way to help prevent the spread of the virus, help keep our schools open for in-person instruction, and allow your children to participate in co-curricular activities.

Thank you to the parents who have shared their children's vaccination information with the schools. We ask that you complete the previously sent Google Form as your children become fully vaccinated. Proof of student vaccination is extremely helpful to our nurses as they do contact tracing.

Have a Healthy and Peaceful Holiday Season,

