



UNION TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS
NICHOLAS A. DIAZ, Superintendent

August 24, 2021

Dear Tiger Family,

During the August 16th Board of Education meeting, the district's [Safe Return Plan](#) was updated. These protocols are subject to change if we receive any new guidance from the NJ Department of Health/Education, Governor or the CDC.

Masks – Per the Governor's Executive Order 251, masks are required for all individuals indoors in district and school buildings no matter your vaccination status. There are exceptions which are listed in [the Order \(on page four, section one\)](#). It is important to note that per an exception by the CDC, if students are properly wearing masks indoors, there will be no quarantine needed for close contacts as mentioned below.

Screenings – There will be a one time screening acknowledgement form to be completed prior to the start of school. Though you are not requested to complete a daily pre-screening survey, parents are requested to screen their own children prior to sending them to school. If your child has the symptoms listed below per the New Jersey Department of Health, **the child should not come to school**. Please inform the school nurse if your child has the following symptoms:

- A fever of 100 degrees or higher.
- At least **two** of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigor (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; OR
- At least **one** of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, loss of smell, loss of taste.

COVID-19 Positive Cases – If any student, either vaccinated or unvaccinated, tests positive for COVID-19, please report the positive case to the school nurse so we can contact trace as required. Please refer to the Hunterdon County Department of Health's [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) to track positive cases in the county.

Quarantining – Quarantining is still in effect for ill individuals or those who test positive

 165 Perryville Road, Hampton, NJ 08827

 908-735-5511

 www.uniontwpschool.org

 ndiaz@uniontwpschool.org

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for COVID-19 as follows:

- Ill individuals with COVID-like symptoms who have not been tested or individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home until at least 10 days have passed from symptom onset and at least 24 hours have passed after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications and improvement in symptoms, or 7 days with a negative test result collected at 5-7 day from the day of potential exposure. *(Note: if county is at High level for COVID-19 activity quarantine is 14 days, no testing out of quarantine. [Levels are determined by the NJ Department of Health.](#))*
- Persons who test positive for COVID-19 but who are asymptomatic should stay home for 10 days from the positive test result, or 7 days with a negative test result collected at 5-7 days from the potential exposure. *(Note: if county is at High level for COVID-19 activity quarantine is 14 days, no testing out of quarantine.)*
- An alternate diagnosis (including a positive strep test or influenza swab) without a negative COVID-19 test is not acceptable for individuals who meet COVID-19 exclusion criteria to return to school earlier than the timeframes above.

Close Contacts and Quarantine – The CDC has an exception for close contacts in K-12 indoor classroom settings as follows: “the close contact definition excludes students who are within 3-6 feet of an infected student if both the infected student and exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time.” Therefore, if students are wearing masks over their mouth and nose indoors, there is no quarantine required for close contacts.

In circumstances where masks are not worn, such as lunches, PE class, sports, etc., the following guidelines will be followed for close contacts:

Unvaccinated individuals identified as close contacts of an individual who tests positive for COVID-19 should be excluded from school and quarantine for 10 days, or 7 days with a negative test result collected at 5-7 days.

As per the Safe Return Plan, the District may allow students who test negative on day 5 to return to school on day 6. These will be considered on a case by case basis. All staff

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members are essential workers. The CSA has the authority to lessen/eliminate quarantine times for staff on a case by case basis.

Exposed close contacts who are **fully vaccinated** and have no COVID-like symptoms:

- Do not need to quarantine, be excluded from school, or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following an exposure.
- If they experience symptoms, they should isolate themselves from others, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including testing and inform their health care provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation of care.
- If your child has been vaccinated for COVID-19, please consider sending in a copy of the vaccination record to the health office so that they may add it to your child's immunization file and it will assist with contact tracing if needed. The vaccine is not a requirement, but it is a great way to keep your student's records updated.

Schoolwork While on Quarantine – Students who are quarantined will receive a Zoom link to attend class virtually. (Virtual instruction is offered for quarantined students only per the NJ Department of Education.) Quarantined students should also be checking their classes' Google Classrooms/Seesaw daily to keep up with assignments.

We appreciate your cooperation with these protocols in order to keep our students, employees and visitors safe and healthy while at our schools and helping us to provide a traditional school year for students.

Yours in education,

Nicholas A. Diaz

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