



LITTLE SILVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. Michael E. Ettore
Superintendent of Schools
124 Willow Drive, Little Silver, NJ 07739

Tel: 732-741-2188
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January 11, 2021

Dear Little Silver Families,

Welcome back and Happy 2021 to everyone! I hope that winter break proved to be a time for rest, relaxation and enjoyment during the annual holiday season. As we start the new year, our goal remains to keep our schools open to the greatest extent possible. As I have stated since September, our ability to achieve that goal largely depends on the cooperation of our families. I am writing as a follow up to a previous notice regarding holiday travel, quarantine requirements and reporting student absences so that we can continue to uphold our commitment to the health and well-being of our students, our staff, their families and our entire community.

Knowing that many families made the decision to travel during the holiday break, I am once again asking for your cooperation in that if you traveled to areas beyond the immediate region (New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Delaware), that you inform the school nurse about your travels so that she will be able to provide appropriate guidance. For students that traveled beyond the aforementioned immediate region, the expectation remains to quarantine for a minimum of fourteen days beginning the day after their return. During this quarantine time, your child will have full access to remote learning.

Additionally, it is important to remember that parents/guardians are required to call or email the school whenever your child is going to be absent. When making this report, it is imperative that you give a reason for the absence. The district is required to submit COVID related absence data to the health department, so it is critical that we are able to verify that our data is accurate. The administration and nurses in both schools are committed to keeping the lines of communication open and doing all that is possible to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our school community.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding any medical or health issues, please feel free to reach out via the LSCOVID@littlesiverschools.org email or directly to either of our school nurses. I believe it is important to refer everyone to the information in the Genesis Portal and/or review the guidelines below:

Guidelines for When to Keep Your Child Home for Illness during Covid-19:

The following guidelines and information are important to note. The expectation is that you check in with your child for any symptoms of illness *prior* to them leaving for school each morning. Below are the guidelines of COVID-19 compatible symptoms. We ask that you be mindful of these symptoms and keep your child home to ensure the safety of **ALL** individuals in school.

This information is in accordance with the guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health and the LS District reopening plan guidelines.

Section 1: Symptoms

Any of the symptoms listed below could indicate a COVID-19 infection in children and may put your child at risk for spreading illness to others. Please note that this list does not include all possible symptoms and children with COVID-19 may experience any, all, or none of these symptoms. Please check your child daily for the following symptoms:



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Column A

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Chills | Sore Throat |
| Shivers | Nausea |
| Muscle Aches | Fatigue |
| Headache | Congestion or runny nose |

Column B

| | |
|----------|----------------------|
| Fever | Shortness of breath |
| Cough | Difficulty breathing |
| Diarrhea | Loss of taste |
| Vomiting | Loss of smell |

Students who are sick with COVID-19 compatible symptoms are excluded from attending school in-person. If your child has a fever, or **TWO OR MORE of the symptoms in Column A OR ONE symptom in column B**, please keep your child home and notify the school/health office for further instructions.

In addition, the district must now exclude individuals if they are deemed to be close contacts of another person who has reported COVID-19 compatible symptoms. Siblings of a student who has symptoms and meets COVID-19 Exclusion Criteria should be excluded from school until the symptomatic individual is cleared to return to school.

Decisions on when close contacts of individuals exhibiting compatible symptoms can return to school are dependent on the ill person's medical evaluation and COVID-19 test results. "The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) recommends that any child with COVID-19 compatible symptoms should not return to school until they have either received a negative viral test (molecular or antigen) for SARS-CoV-2 or they have completed an isolation period of at least 10 days since symptom onset and at least 24 hours after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications with symptom improvement. **A purely clinical alternative diagnosis is no longer acceptable**".

Section 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

Please verify if:

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Your child has had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Someone in your household is diagnosed with COVID-19 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Your child has traveled out of state (exception are immediate region states NY, CT, DE, and PA) |



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If ANY of the fields in Section 2 apply, please keep your child home and contact the school nurse immediately for further guidance.

Face Coverings

- Practice wearing at home!
- Masks - need to cover both the mouth and nose.
- Cleaning - wash masks every night.
- Provide an extra one in case the one they are wearing needs replacement.

Parent Contact

- Please make sure the school has updated contact/emergency contact information on file at all times.
- We ask that you have a designated person who can pick up your child within a 30-minute window if you will not be able to be here within that time frame.
- Parent calls to report a student absence due to illness should be clear about the illness/symptoms necessitating the absence.

I realize this letter is longer than most, but I felt it was important to reinforce the information and expectations associated with the Covid-19 protocols and procedures as we return to live learning in schools this week. As long as our collective efforts continue to be cautious and responsible, I believe we will be able to prevent prolonged periods of virtual learning.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation.

Respectfully,

Michael E. Ettore
Superintendent