



James A. Fazzone, Ed. D.
Interim Superintendent

January 1, 2022

Dear MCSSSD family,

I wish you a wonderful start to 2022, and much happiness during the remainder of our school year! I am hoping you have enjoyed the break and are excited to return to in-person instruction. As we continue to monitor the latest developments, we do want to note that we have recently seen a rise in COVID-19 cases over the past several weeks. We have continued to closely monitor the number of cases in coordination with local health departments over the holiday break. Although we have seen an increase in cases, at this time we have not identified any significant outbreaks in our MCSSSD schools, or evidence of in-school transmission in the schools. The New Jersey Department of Education currently requires school districts to consult with their local health department to determine if a closure is necessary due to COVID-19 outbreaks. Our current data has not resulted in the need to move to virtual instruction and indicates we can remain open at this time. We appreciate all the assistance that our students, families, and dedicated staff have put forth in helping us to remain open for in-person instruction since September. Your efforts in wearing masks properly, engaging in social distancing, staying home when ill, and working with district administration to contact trace are much appreciated. At this time, we will continue with our plan for students to return to school in-person on Monday, January 3, 2022. Please maintain all your diligent safety efforts during this return.

We do want to alert you to be prepared in case we must alter this plan. Circumstances that could cause us to need to move to virtual instruction may include a significant increase in COVID-19 cases or transmission within schools, or significant staff absences that would hinder schools from safely delivering in-person learning due to a lack of adequate student supervision. We will monitor these situations closely and will keep you abreast of any concerns that may arise.

We also want to make you aware of some recent updates regarding quarantine and isolation timeframes issued by the NJDOH and the CDC. On December 27, 2021, the CDC released updated recommendations for the general population regarding revised isolation and quarantine timeframes for vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals. It should be noted that this was not specifically intended for individuals in school settings. The NJDOH is currently reviewing this most recent CDC update, and it is expected that amended guidance for schools will be provided in early January. While we await the latest information from the NJDOH, MCSSSD will continue to follow the NJDOH recommendations that were provided to schools on December 15, 2021, and we will require unvaccinated close contact quarantine for 10 days without a test. Alternatively, individuals can return to school on day 8 after receiving a negative result from a test taken on days 5-7. If you or someone in your household tests positive for COVID-19 or exhibits symptoms during the remainder of winter break, you should notify your principal and school nurse via email.

Let us continue to work together to make 2022 a year filled with wonderful opportunities for all of our school family!

Thank you and be safe,


James A. Fazzone, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent