

Moonachie Public Schools

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April 19, 2021

Moonachie Families & Friends-

As many of you are aware, the majority of COVID19 notices provided to our community and quarantine letters state that individuals are listed as 'contacts', but not 'close contacts'. It has been the stance of the Bergen County Department of Health (BCDOH) that "out of an abundance of caution," schools have been closed several times and entire classrooms of students/staff asked to quarantine, even when they were never considered "close contacts." We have appreciated, understood, and followed the BCDOH stance and recommendations with each positive case for Covid-19.

Today, I'm very happy to share with you that the BCDOH has notified Nurse Gallo that this practice will be modified, with an emphasis placed on specific contact tracing and mitigation efforts. This means that the BCDOH's recommendations will now align with the NJDOH's definition of a "close contact" and "recommended quarantining".

This means that the BCDOH will no longer be recommending full-class quarantines when a positive case for COVID-19 occurs. We will continue our practice of contact tracing, and ask individuals who are 'close contacts' to quarantine. As a reminder, a 'close contact' is someone who is closer than 6-feet, for more than 15-minutes, within a 24-hour period. While a majority of our K-5 classrooms are still actively practicing 6-feet of social distance, the close contact definition is altered to reflect the current guidelines for social distancing in K-5 classrooms of 3-feet.

With this guidance, we will now revert back to the original plan, in line with NJDOH recommendations, when a positive case does occur. The class will move to an alternative location (Media Center) for a day, while the room is fully air-scrubbed and sanitized, using the electrostatic sprayers with disinfectant.

As we plan for our return to 5-days of Live instruction in May, this alignment from the BCDOH to the NJDOH recommendations, is exciting as we are able to offer more sustainable academic programming for families.

Additionally, all Covid-19 mitigation strategies and procedures are unchanged.

As always, please reach out to me at jknipper@moonachieschool.org or Nurse Gallo at dgallo@moonachieschool.org, or either of us at (201) 641-5833, with any questions or concerns you may have.

Stay well.



James Knipper
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