

BOUND BROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bound Brook Board Offices: 130 West Maple Avenue, Bound Brook, NJ, 08805 tel: 732-652-7925 fax: 732-271-9097

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

December 23rd, 2021

Dear Parents:

The district administration would like to wish all of our parents, students, and staff a Happy Holiday Season! The holiday season is a time for giving thanks and saying thank you to the entire school community for all of the support that you provide to our students, families, and staff. We truly hope that all of the Bound Brook School District community members are healthy. Our staff and community partners have worked tirelessly with big hearts to make a positive difference. This year, we have helped so many of our families in need, and we need to thank all of our staff for the assistance they have brought to those in the most need. I know we have made an impact on the lives of so many during the holiday season.

We have witnessed our school community come together to celebrate and support our children. While the country and the district continue to fight the COVID-19 variants, there is a lot of rhetoric regarding schools, testing, staffing, and other issues we face today. As of today, I am writing to you to dispel rumors. The district is planning to stay open when we return from the holiday break. We ask that you please monitor your children for any type of sickness and to please not send them back to school if they are not completely well.

As a reminder, students should stay home if they are experiencing COVID-19 compatible symptoms. They are defined in NJDOH K-12 school guidance using CSTE/CDC case criteria definition as those who have:

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measured or subjective), chills, rigors (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, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

Quarantine Timelines to Remember:

- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, that student must complete a 10-day quarantine and have improvement of symptoms.
- A student who is sent home by the district for COVID-19 compatible symptoms is excluded from in-person learning for 10 days. The student can return to school with a physician's note and at least 24 hours after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications with symptom improvement.
- Individuals that travel internationally who are not fully vaccinated should get tested 3-5 days after travel and stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel, even if they test negative. If testing is not completed post-travel, individuals should self-quarantine for 10 days.
- International travelers who are fully vaccinated should also get tested 3-5 days after travel, self-monitor for symptoms, and isolate and get tested if symptoms develop.

Exposed close contacts who have no COVID-19 symptoms and are not fully vaccinated:

- Individuals should quarantine at home after exposure and should be tested 5-7 days after their last exposure or immediately if symptoms develop. If the result is negative, individuals may return on the 8th day after their last exposure or later.
- If the positive individual is a household member, the household close contact should be tested 5-7 days after the case's isolation period ends (day 15-17) and can return on day 18 with a negative test result.
- If positive, they should isolate for 10 days.

Exposed close contacts who have no COVID-19 symptoms and are fully vaccinated:

- Do not need to quarantine or be excluded from school.
- Should be tested 5-7 days following exposure to someone with COVID-19.
- Should still monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days following exposure.
- Should wear a mask in other indoor public settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result.

Exposed close contacts who have no COVID-19 symptoms and have been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 90 days:

- Individuals should alert their school nurse, but, do not need to quarantine or be excluded from school. They should not be tested for COVID-19, but, should still monitor for symptoms for 14 days following exposure.

**Parents should alert the school and have children learn virtually for the length of the quarantine.*

If your child tests positive for COVID-19 while the school is closed for winter recess (December 24th through January 2nd), please email the following email address, covid@bbrook.k12.nj.us, which will be monitoring new cases throughout the winter recess.

Additionally, the district is planning to provide rapid tests for students and staff who are exposed to COVID-19 outside of the home as a means to stay in school. This process would allow the district to reduce the number of students and staff on quarantine. Once we have more information from the State Offices and have it in place, we will share more information with you.

Beginning in January 2022, the district will begin to utilize Google Classroom for instruction for quarantined students. At this time, we will be unable to continue after-school tutoring for students in quarantine as we have exhausted all of the funds due to the high number of students in the first part of the year that had to stay home.

The district administration wishes you and your families a healthy and happy holiday season. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us at any time. Thank you for your understanding, support and patience during this period of time.

Truly,

Daniel Gallagher, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools