

Shrewsbury Borough School

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing today to provide you with an update regarding our current positive COVID-19 case rate as it relates to our local school community. Our contact tracing has revealed that the majority of our positive COVID-19 case rates here at SBS this year are epidemiologically linked to positive COVID-19 cases in the local community. Our schoolwide positive COVID-19 case rate correlates to our local positive COVID-19 case rate, (with the exception of the nursing homes and assisted living facilities) and is a reliable indicator to gauge “community spread” here locally in Shrewsbury. As you may know; we consult frequently with the MCRHC#1 to implement the latest CDC and NJDOH guidelines and recommendations. We also contact them for specific guidance whenever we are aware of a positive COVID-19 case at SBS. In cases where students and employees have been in “close contact” with a positive COVID-19 individual, the school communicates with those individuals directly by phone and email. We also contact specific classes and groups of students if they have been in contact with a positive COVID-19 individual or individuals.

| Week of: | COVID-19 Positive Students | COVID-19 Positive Staff |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| September 20, 2021 | 0 | 0 |
| September 27, 2021 | 0 | 0 |

- For more information about daily reporting of positive COVID-19 cases reported in Monmouth County, please see [Monmouth County News Releases](#).
- For more information about weekly state and regional reports of positive COVID-19 cases in New Jersey, please see [COVID-19 Activity Level Index \(CALI\) Weekly Reports](#).
- For more information about “Operating schools during COVID-19: CDC’s Considerations,” please see [Operating Schools During COVID-19](#).

- For more information about “COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools,” please see [COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools](#). This is an excellent guide to all of the COVID-19 protocols and procedures that SBS has been implementing with specific information about quarantines.
- For more information about a digital solution for storing COVID-19 vaccination records, please see [Docket: Secure, Digital Access to COVID-19 Immunization Records](#)
- For more information about quarantines and isolation due to COVID-19, please see [COVID-19 Quarantine VS. Isolation](#).
- For more information about responding to COVID-19 cases, please see [Toolkit for Responding to COVID-19 Cases](#)
- For more information about screening students for COVID-19, please see [COVID-19 CHILD CARE PROGRAM SYMPTOM SCREENING FLOWCHART](#)

Here are some additional reminders for our parent community:

- Please see the most current, recently updated guidelines for travel and travel-related quarantine as issued by the NJDOH and the CDC. You should follow these guidelines when traveling to ensure that your children can return to school promptly after a trip or vacation. Please see the [NJDOH](#) website for the most important and current information and updates below:
 - **As of May 17, 2021, New Jersey's travel advisory is no longer in effect.**
 - New Jersey residents returning home and travellers visiting New Jersey do not need to quarantine, but should follow travel guidance from the CDC, the NJ Department of Health, and all local health and safety protocols of their travel destination.
 - For more information, refer to the [CDC's guidance for domestic travel](#).
 - **International Travel**
 - The CDC requires all air passengers arriving in the United States from a foreign country to get tested for COVID-19 no more than 3 days before their flight departs and to present the negative result or documentation of having recovered from COVID-19 to the airline before boarding the flight.
 - For more information, visit the [CDC website](#).
 - In addition, with specific exceptions, foreign nationals who have been in any of the following countries during the past 14 days may NOT enter the United States: India, China, Iran, countries in the

[European Schengen Area](#), United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, Brazil, and South Africa. For more details and a full list of exceptions, refer to the [CDC's update on travelers prohibited from entry](#).

- *The Shrewsbury Borough School **will only** accept PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test results conducted no sooner than 72 hours or three days from the return from your trip. SBS **will not** accept any Rapid Antigen Test results or any type of antigen testing for the purpose of determining quarantine timelines.*
- If anyone in your family or close circle is symptomatic or tests positive for COVID-19, you should contact the school immediately. While we can't mitigate every possible risk that we face, we can take actions quickly that prevent further transmission and exposure for everyone. If we truly value in-person instruction for all of our students, we must all do our part to keep everyone healthy and safe here and at home. Otherwise, our children will continue to experience disruptions in their ability to enjoy and benefit from in-person learning on a consistent basis at the Shrewsbury Borough School.
- If you think that your child may need to speak with a counselor or if you need further resources to help your family through this time, please feel free to contact our professional counseling staff:
 - Ms. Kathleen Fitzpatrick, School Psychologist - 1.732.747.0882, extension # 119 or fitzpatrickk@sbs-nj.org
 - Mrs. Kristina Kiely, School Social Worker - 1.732.747.0882, extension #118 or kielyk@sbs-nj.org
 - Ms. Marisa Shaheen, School Counselor - 1.732.747.0882, extension #309 or shaheenm@sbs-nj.org
- Please make sure that your child or children have a well fitting mask for each day at school. Gaiters and bandanas are not an appropriate or safe face covering for the school day. For more information, please see [CDC Mask Guidelines](#).
- ***Please do not send your child or children to school if they are symptomatic or sick in any way.*** One of our most powerful tools to keep everyone safe and healthy is the use of selective isolation and quarantine of individuals who are actively sick or presenting symptoms. If your child is not feeling well, you should make an appointment with your pediatrician or family health care provider as we will ask you for a doctor's note to return to school and COVID-19 PCR testing results if appropriate.
- Please keep siblings at home until you can get conclusive results for any child who is considered a "close contact." You should contact your pediatrician or family healthcare provider for specific guidance on PCR testing and steps to ensure a safe return to SBS.

If your pediatrician doesn't believe that your child should be tested, they should explain that in their doctor's note to the school.

Best wishes for continued health and safety to you and your family. I hope you have a wonderful weekend!

Very sincerely,

Brent A. MacConnell

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Superintendent