



North Hunterdon-Voorhees
REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
Providing success for all students

1445 State Route 31 South
Annandale, NJ 08801
908-735-2846
908-735-6914 Fax
www.NHVweb.net

JEFFREY BENDER
Superintendent of Schools

RICHARD A. BERGACS, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

KATHRYN BLEW, CPA
School Business Administrator
Board Secretary

November 20, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I want to share with you an important update that school superintendents received from the Hunterdon County Department of Health. As we have seen, the number of positive cases of COVID-19 is surging across the nation and here in New Jersey as well. According to the Hunterdon County Department of Health, our region has now moved to the “High Risk” COVID-19 risk level (see Regional Risk Matrix below). With this increased risk level, the county health department may advise us to move to virtual instruction for all students and/or restrict activities that involve multiple cohorts such as sports. If we continue with in-person learning in a designated “High Risk” region, the guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health is to treat anyone who has COVID-19-like symptoms as probable cases and quarantine any close contacts (see COVID Exclusion Table below). This increased exclusion of individuals with COVID-19-like symptoms will be problematic as it will lead to more students and staff members on quarantine.

At this time, we will maintain our current instructional model until further notice. We will continue to monitor the data and reevaluate this decision regularly. This means that the North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District will continue to operate in a hybrid model of instruction as long as conditions in our schools and community remain safe for students and staff.

I wanted to share this information with you so that you can be prepared in the event that the data changes and the county health department advises our schools to switch to all virtual instruction. As we have already seen, we may have to switch to all virtual instruction for one day to contact trace or there may come a time that virtual instruction will be long term. We encourage everyone to have contingency plans for such an event.

We will continue to keep you updated if we receive any further information from the health department. Please continue to follow CDC guidelines by wearing a mask, social distancing and limiting social gatherings as those have been the leading cause of the COVID-19 cases in our district.

It is important that you continue to complete the daily pre-screening form to assist our district with monitoring symptoms and potential cases of COVID-19. Every hybrid student should have a pre-screening completed by a parent/guardian every school day, both on in-person and virtual instruction days. Please also continue to report to us or the health department when your child tests positive so contact tracing can be completed in conjunction with the health department.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. Mitigating the spread of COVID-19 is a community effort and we appreciate you joining with us in our efforts to keep our students and staff safe and

healthy. We recognize the challenges this pandemic has created for everyone. Please be assured that our decisions continue to be made with the best interest of our students, staff and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Bender', followed by a horizontal line.

Jeffrey Bender
Superintendent of Schools
North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District

Enclosed below:

New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix
New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Exclusion Table



COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix

**For use by LHDs when providing guidance to school districts*

Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk
<p>Evaluate alternatives to in-person learning to ensure continuity of work or educational services.</p> <p>In response to COVID-19 positive staff or student, follow COVID-19 exclusion criteria; work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts following CDC guidance; refer to guidance on cleaning and disinfection.</p> <p>In response to ill students and staff, follow NJDOH School Exclusion List.</p> <p>* If ill person had potential exposure in past 14 days, follow COVID-19 exclusion criteria; wait at least 24 hours and clean/disinfect areas where ill person spent time.</p> <p>Permit limited activities involving interaction with multiple cohorts, ensuring adherence to precautions.</p>	<p>Consider a mixture of remote and/or hybrid learning approaches, and/or fully remote learning.</p> <p>In response to COVID-19 positive staff or student, follow COVID-19 exclusion criteria; work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts following CDC guidance; refer to guidance on cleaning and disinfection.</p> <p>In response to ill students and staff with COVID-19 compatible symptoms, follow COVID-19 exclusion criteria; wait at least 24 hours and clean/disinfect areas where ill person spent time.</p> <p>Minimize activities that involve interaction with multiple cohorts.</p>	<p>Consider implementing fully remote learning.</p> <p><i>If schools remain open for in-person learning:</i></p> <p>In response to staff or student who is COVID-19 positive or who has COVID-19 compatible symptoms (not yet tested), follow COVID-19 exclusion criteria; work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts according to CDC guidance; refer to guidance on cleaning and disinfection.</p> <p>* Decisions on when ill person's close contacts can return to school are dependent on the ill person's medical evaluation and COVID-19 test results.</p> <p>Restrict activities that involve interaction with multiple cohorts.</p>	<p>Implement fully remote learning</p>
<p>RISK LEVELS GREEN, YELLOW, AND ORANGE (IF OPEN FOR IN-PERSON LEARNING):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require staff and students to stay home when sick or if they have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days. Parents/guardians, students and staff should notify school administrators of illness and known exposure. Have a policy for daily symptom screening for students and staff; have plans for students and staff to report symptoms that develop during the day. In conjunction with local health department, identify COVID-19 rapid testing resources (viral testing) for when staff and students develop COVID-19 compatible symptoms. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily. Ensure adequate hand hygiene supplies are readily available. Implement physical distancing measures (e.g., reducing occupancy (staggered schedules, use of alternate spaces), installation of partitions/physical barriers, cancelling large gatherings/events, maintaining defined cohorts). Implement source control through wearing face coverings. 			
<p>ALL RISK LEVELS</p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep abreast of NJDOE and NJDOH COVID-19 guidance and surveillance indicators. Exchange after-hours contact information with your local health department. 			



COVID-19 Exclusion Table: *Exclusion criteria for staff, students and close contacts*

	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk
COVID-19 positive (viral test), symptomatic or asymptomatic	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria Work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts for 14 days from last exposure	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria Work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts for 14 days from last exposure	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria Work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts for 14 days from last exposure	Not Applicable (remote learning)
COVID-19 symptoms but not tested for COVID-19 and no alternate diagnosis	If no potential exposure to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, individual can follow NJDOH School Exclusion List If person has potential exposure to COVID-19 in the last 14 days, exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria .	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria	Exclude according to COVID-19 exclusion criteria Work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts for 14 days from last exposure, or until symptomatic individual tests negative for COVID-19 or receives an alternate diagnosis from a medical provider	
COVID-19 symptoms and negative COVID-19 test (viral test)	Exclude individual through 24 hours after their fever has ended without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms improve	Exclude individual through 24 hours after their fever has ended without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms improve	Exclude individual through 24 hours after their fever has ended without the use of fever reducing medications and other symptoms improve	
COVID-19 symptoms BUT with alternate diagnosis from a healthcare provider	Exclude individual based on diagnosis, using NJDOH School Exclusion List	Exclude individual based on diagnosis, using NJDOH School Exclusion List	Exclude individual based on diagnosis, using NJDOH School Exclusion List	
Close contact of COVID-19 positive staff or student <i>or to someone with COVID-19 symptoms (high risk level only)</i>	Close contacts of persons who test positive for COVID-19 should be excluded through 14 days from date of last contact.	Close contacts of persons who test positive for COVID-19 should be excluded through 14 days from date of last contact	Close contacts of persons who test positive for COVID-19 should be excluded through 14 days from date of last contact. Close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 symptoms should be excluded through 14 days from date of last contact, or until ill individual receives an alternate diagnosis or tests negative for COVID-19.	