

Chesterfield Township School District

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Dear Chesterfield Elementary School Community,

Happy Thursday! I want to begin this week's letter reminding all parents of a few upcoming scheduling notes:

- **Monday, January 18th** - School closed for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- **Tuesday, January 19th** - School reopens for in-person instruction for all students in an in-person instructional model. It is a Cohort B Day.
- **Friday, February 12th** - School opens as the make-up day for our December 17th snow day.
- **Monday, February 15th** - School closed for Presidents' Day.
- **Tuesday, February 16th** - School closed to students for Staff In-Service Day.

During the winter recess and the first two weeks of January, very few COVID-19 related health issues were reported to our Health Office by our students' parents and staff. I want to remind all parents of the importance of reporting COVID-19 related health issues to our Health Office. This is critical information we use to make decisions and ensure the health and safety of our school for our students and staff. **If your child is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or being tested, you should notify the Health Office and your child should remain home from school.**

On January 1, 2021, the New Jersey Department of Health issued new guidance and recommends that "*any child with COVID-19 compatible symptoms should not return to school until they have either received a negative viral test (molecular or antigen) for SARS-CoV-2 or they have completed an isolation period of at least 10 days since symptom onset and at least 24 hours after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications with symptom improvement. A purely clinical alternative diagnosis is no longer acceptable*". As New Jersey continues to experience COVID-19 transmission among school-aged children, symptoms are often mild, and it may not be possible to clinically distinguish between COVID-19 and other illnesses.

During the month of December, the District held several meetings with staff, parents, and committees to gather feedback on the school year. The information from the parent forums has been summarized and posted in the Virtual Parent Handbook. To view the summary of the parent forums please access the handbook [here](#) and refer to page 25 for the summary. Thank you to all the parents who participated in the open forums. The major discussion topic during the parent forums was COVID-19. In response to one of the discussions during the parent forums, we've developed a one-page COVID-19 *Illness and Quarantine Guideline* to help parents understand the protocols we follow for common COVID-related scenarios. This resource can be found on page 29 in the Virtual Parent Handbook. Please know, a more detailed resource is available in our Virtual Parent Handbook on page 22. Finally, I also want to note, in the summary I've also provided a link to the New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools. This is a detailed document provided by the New Jersey Department of Health outlining all COVID-19 recommendations and guidelines.

We are excited to open next week to in-person instruction, but we must continue to be vigilant in following all health and safety protocols to ensure we protect our students and staff and are able to keep our building open. Enjoy the holiday weekend and stay safe.

The COVID-19 Weekly Health Report for the month of January is below. As a reminder, historical data from September – December 2020 can be found by clicking on this link <https://www.chesterfieldschool.com/Page/2902>.

COVID-19 Weekly Health Report

Week of.....	# of Positive Cases in School	# of Students/Staff Sent Home Due to Symptoms	# of Students/Staff Quarantined & Why	# of Incidents of Non-Compliance
Jan. 4 th	1 (remote)	0	2 students (close contact) 1 staff (travel)	0
Jan. 11 th	1	0	2 staff (positive case and close contact)	0

Sincerely,

Scott Heino

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