



Nutley Public Schools

315 Franklin Ave.
Nutley, NJ 07110

Dr. Julie Glazer, Superintendent
Tel: 973-661-3500
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November 10, 2021

Dear Parents,

In the past two weeks there has been a surge of COVID-19 positive individuals at Nutley High School. There is not a school outbreak which is defined as three or more laboratory-confirmed (by RT-PCR or antigen) COVID-19 cases among students or staff with onsets within a 14-day period, who are epidemiologically linked, meaning they have had close contact with a confirmed positive individual in school, do not share a household, and were not identified as close contacts of each other in another setting. Contact tracing has determined that this is a community outbreak with positive cases predominantly attributed to three parties held over the Halloween weekend. **At this time there are less than 5% of the Nutley High School population who have tested positive. In consultation with the local, county, and state Departments of Health the district was advised to continue normal in-school operations following our established health and safety protocols, and to continue to monitor and report new cases.**

There has been some concern by parents with the number of notification letters they have received leading to a misconception of higher positive cases than have been reported. At Nutley High School, one student that was in the building during the contagious period may have been in eight or more classes with different students. It has been our policy to notify regarding each positive regardless of close contact, defined as less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes in 24 hours. Most notifications refer to the New Jersey Department of Health, The Road Forward Guidance updated August 21, 2021 stating that in the K–12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student and six feet of an infected staff member where both the infected student and the exposed student(s) or staff correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time. In the classrooms where staff and students were appropriately social distanced and fully masked, there is no need to take any action.

An additional concern raised was the time between when a child may have been in a classroom with a positive individual and the notification you receive. We notify immediately once we are made aware of a positive individual. Self-reporting to the school nurse as soon as a positive PCR test is received allows us to notify more quickly than if we need to wait for the health department reporting. The 14-day window is in place because it often takes that long for symptoms to emerge.

If your child should develop symptoms such as fever (100°F) or chills, cough, shortness of breath or other symptoms including fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea, please seek medical attention. The State of New Jersey website includes a symptom checker and testing sites: <https://covid19.nj.gov/>. **If you or your child are feeling unwell, please stay home!** Most of the notifications we have been sending over the past few weeks are the result of students coming to school thinking they “just” had a headache, cold, or allergies. Even when the symptoms are minor, please keep your student home and

consider having them tested for COVID-19. Here is a link to free testing sites
<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing#test-sites>

As a reminder, if you or your child are made aware that you were exposed to COVID-19, a close contact less than 6 feet for more than 15 minutes in 24 hours, outside of the school setting **and are not vaccinated**, please begin to quarantine as soon as possible. This includes quarantining following a COVID-19 test until you receive your results. As of October 15, 2021 the CDC also recommends fully vaccinated people get tested 5-7 days after close contact with a person with suspected or confirmed COVID, although quarantining is not required. Unvaccinated children, siblings/spouses/live-ins, etc. of positive individuals or even symptomatic students and staff need to be sent home or stay home until the district receives a negative PCR test result.

Please note, the district follows the Department of Health and CDC recommendations for travel. Unvaccinated individuals who travel should get tested 3-5 days after travel and self-quarantine for 7 days after domestic travel, and for 10 days if they are unable to test. Fully vaccinated individuals and those who have recovered from COVID-19 in the past 3 months do not need to get tested or self-quarantine after travel. However, the CDC recommends fully vaccinated individuals self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms, and isolate and get tested if they develop symptoms.

As always, please continue to wear face masks, socially distance, and use hygiene practices such as frequent handwashing. This will mitigate the risk of COVID 19 spread, allow us to continue in-person operations, and plan for the best structure of educational services to minimize risk to staff and students.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Nutley Township Health Department at 973.284.4976.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Julie Glazer".

Dr. Julie Glazer