



School District of South Orange and Maplewood

COLUMBIA HIGH SCHOOL

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Mr. Frank Sanchez
Principal
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Ms. Tracie Morrison – 9th grade
Ms. Cheryline Hewitt – 10th grade
Mr. Terry Woolard – 11th grade
Mrs. Melissa Butler – 12th grade
Assistant Principals

COVID-19 School Notification: Outbreak in Grade

June 21, 2022

Dear Columbia High School teachers and parents of students in Grade 12:

This letter is to inform you that more than three individuals in Grade 12 who attended the Senior Prom on June 15, 2022, have been identified as Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases within the past 14 day period. The District is coordinating closely with public health officials and following the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), state, and local Department of Health (DOH) guidance in order to assure the health and safety of our community. **Positive cases are investigated deeply by the local DOH; then, an outbreak may be identified by the DOH and the guidance below comes from them.**

After the Department of Health investigation, this is considered an outbreak. It is recommended that you follow up with a COVID test, regardless of vaccination status. It may be a home test or a laboratory rapid or PCR test.

- If you test positive by home test, it is recommended that you stay home and follow up with a laboratory test (Rapid or PCR). Please notify the school nurse and principal of a positive home test.
 - The DOH recommends that you contact them with your home test result via this google form.
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14socQvPyJPVL5cJx1-VOH7cuafgIx7RJpAHgllhVOWY/edit?ts=627017e0>
- If you test positive by laboratory test (Rapid or PCR), please stay home and email the principal.
- If you have symptoms, stay home.

Besides the recommendations above, the DOH is requiring that you send your *Grade 12 students to school with a mask through June 24, 2022.* We ask them to stay masked on the bus and indoors at school unless they are actively eating or drinking or are having a mask break. (We also have masks available at school.)

We understand the level of concern regarding COVID-19. We encourage parents and students to continue following the CDC and NJDOH promoted safeguards, such as:

- Getting vaccinated and boosted as eligible
- Staying home when you are sick
- Consider wearing a mask while in school and in public settings
- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using hand sanitizer
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils

- Practicing social distancing; and
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms. Get a laboratory PCR or Rapid test if you have symptoms,
- and see Testing below

As always, we appreciate our community's support and cooperation. Please continue to assist us in dealing with this health concern. Thank you to all who have been vigilant in notifying the school district if you have a positive case or exposure and for staying home if you or someone in the household is sick with COVID-compatible symptoms.

Should you have any questions about this situation, please feel free to contact Nurse Therese Crigler at 973-762-5600 x1059 Below are some resources that might be helpful.

RESOURCES

a. NJDOH COVID-19 Information for Communities and the General Public:

https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml

b. Get the Facts about Coronavirus: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

c. Symptoms of COVID-19:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

d. **Testing AND Vaccination:** <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing> and key in your zip code

[Essex County COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Locations](#) for mega sites for walk-ins

- **Consult your Health Care Provider**
- **Consult your local health department** [SO (973) 378-7715 x7710 or Ma (973) 762-8120 x4400]
- **Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs)** <https://www.nj.gov/health/fhs/primarycare/fqhc/> COVID-19 testing is free of charge at FQHCs regardless if you have insurance or not.
- **MediMobile (New name = MediStation) Walk-in Covid Testing site:**
 - Saturdays at at the Board of Education Building 525 Academy Street in the District Meeting Room 9:00am to 3:00pm (**Last Saturday was June 18th**)
 - Wednesdays at the Board of Education Building 525 Academy Street in the District Meeting Room 4:00pm to 6:00pm (**Last Wednesday is June 22nd**)

e. How to Protect Yourself: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/>

f. What to Do if You Are Sick:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

g. [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) Total number of cases are reported weekly on the District Dashboard (updated every Friday afternoon).

Sincerely,



Frank Sanchez

Columbia High School Principal

Pronouns: he/him/his

<https://twitter.com/CHSPrincipalNJ>