January 13, 2022

Greetings Orange Township Public School District Staff, Families, and Caregivers,

As we are still immersed in a pandemic, our stellar staff continue to work closely with students. In addition, teachers continue to work alongside their colleagues to ensure that the instructional scenarios presented to students are differentiated, targeted, and intentional. Through professional development opportunities and collaboration, teachers are prepared to educate our students in any scenario. I think we can agree that our instructional program in Orange is excellent.

As shared on December 21, 2021, the district would move to the virtual learning program for students and staff immediately following break beginning on Monday, January 3, 2022 to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. With that being said, I want to thank our staff and families as well as students for working so hard during the virtual learning period. Our staff returned to the school district on Monday, January 10, 2022 to provide synchronous instruction to students as well as plan for the return of our scholars on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

As a reminder: **In-person instruction district wide will resume on Tuesday, January 18, 2022** as the Orange Public School District is closed on Monday, January 17, 2022 in Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday.

Testing: It is highly recommended but not required at this time that students and staff take a PCR test prior to returning to district. For those that had to quarantine due to direct contact, the district would like the results from the PCR to provide supports to students and staff upon their return as shared in the letter sent when the quarantine period was initiated. This past week at the Rosa Parks and Lincoln Testing Sites, over 500 tests were administered. Thank you for listening and ensuring that safety is your number one priority.

Testing Available District-Wide: Testing is available at all of our school buildings. As shared at the Board of Education Meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, testing is available. It is important to know your status as it relates to COVID-19. The district is committed to the health and safety of all who enter our doors. The following is the link to register for testing. Staff and students are eligible to test. The schedule below provides the testing locations, times, and days of testing district-wide. I implore you to take advantage of this opportunity: **https://fastcovidtestny.com**

OPS COVID-19 TESTING SCHEDULE		
2021-2022		
SCHOOL	DAY OF WEEK	TIME(S)
Elementary Schools		
Central	Wednesday	7:45am-9:45am
Cleveland St.	Tuesday	7:45am-9:45am
Forest Street Community School	Monday	7:45am-9:45am
Heywood Avenue	Tuesday	7:45am-9:45am
Lincoln Avenue	Tuesday	7:45am-9:45am
Oakwood Avenue Community School	Wednesday	7:45am-9:45am
Park Avenue	Tuesday	7:45am-9:45am
Rosa Parks Community School	Wednesday	7:45am-9:45am
Other Programs		
John Robert Lewis Early Childhood	Monday	7:45am-9:45am
Orange Early Childhood Center	Wednesday	7:45am-9:45am
Scholars Academy	Monday	7:45am-9:45am
Secondary Schools		
Orange Preparatory Academy	Monday	M 7:45am-9:45am/T 3:30pm-4:45 pm
Orange High School	Monday	M 7:45am-9:45am/T 3:30pm-4:45 pm

STEM Academy of the Oranges	Wednesday	7:45am-9:45am
Twilight Program	Tuesday	3:30pm - 4:45pm
District Office Testing	**Wednesday**	**10:00 AM**
Makeup Testing for All School Sites	**Thursday**	**7:45am-9:45am**
Please note: Testing times are approximate and will be adjusted due to enrollment.		

Symptoms of COVID-19

- Symptoms may appear 2 -14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

➢ Fever or chills
➢ Cough
➢ Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
➢ Fatigue
➢ Muscle or body aches
➢ Headache
➢ New loss of taste or smell
➢ Sore throat
➢ Congestion or runny nose
➢ Nausea or vomiting
➢ Diarrhea

Special Note: All schools are outfitted with isolations rooms should students become sick during the day. When called, the parent/guardian must come immediately to pick up the sick child. This allows for lessening the spread of COVID-19.

If your child or in the other case staff have these symptoms, it is highly recommended that you test. You should stay home and await your test results. Again, we have to maintain the health and safety of all who enter our doors.

Hand Hygiene & Respiratory Etiquette:

- We will continue to teach and reinforce hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol can be used (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer).
- We will inform students and staff to cover coughs and sneezes
- Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hand hygiene as outlined above should be performed immediately.
- We will maintain adequate supplies including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer); paper towels, tissues, and no touch trashcans.
- Hand hygiene should take place: Upon arrival at school. Before and after meals and snacks. After going to the bathroom. Before leaving for the day. } After blowing nose, sneezing, or coughing into tissue. When hands are visibly soiled. Assist/observe young children to ensure proper hand washing

Throughout the course of this year, the reopeningofschools@orange.k12.nj.us email has remained intact in order to answer questions that you may have during this unique experience. While email responses are often returned within hours of sending, please allow 24-48 hours for an email response. It is very important to keeping staff and families informed, particularly during these times.

We are certainly in this together. I am confident that we will continue to blaze a trail filled with success and accomplishment throughout this school year and beyond.

Educationally yours,

Gerald Fitzhugh, II, Ed.D.

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Superintendent of Schools