

# WEST DEPTFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Parents & Guardians:

The New Jersey Department of Health has updated its recommendations regarding the testing and quarantine of ill children. According to the Department's Communicable Disease Service, healthcare professionals have found that signs/symptoms are often mild in children, and it may not be possible to clinically distinguish COVID-19 from other illnesses.

**Going forward, in line with the NJDOH recommendations, any child with COVID-19 compatible symptoms, including those sent home from school, should not return to school until either:**

- A. They receive a negative viral test (lab sent or rapid) for SARS-CoV-2. Lab sent tests are preferred. If both rapid and lab sent tests are done, a student cannot return until the final result of the lab sent test is received.**

**OR:**

- B. They complete 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.**

***In addition, if parents are asked to pick up a symptomatic student from school, any siblings in the district will also need to be picked up. The school nurse will provide instructions on return to school dates for siblings.***

Previously, a doctor's note with an alternative diagnosis allowed students to return. Under the new guidelines, this will no longer be permitted. As mentioned in my letter to the community dated December 22, 2020, we ask that you continue to follow the procedure in place and please reach out to your child's principal if your child is quarantining or has tested positive. Even if your student is currently virtual, we are continuing to monitor numbers and evaluate scenarios. We are continuing to report positive cases to the County, and are continuing to complete contact tracing procedures within our schools.

We thank you for your understanding as we continue to adopt evolving precautions in order to maintain the health and safety of our students and staff. If you have specific questions please contact your child's school nurse.

Oakview Elementary	Cindy Cobb	<a href="mailto:ccobb@wdeptford.k12.nj.us">ccobb@wdeptford.k12.nj.us</a> / 856-845-1856 ext. 4215
Red Bank Elementary	Amy Wilson	<a href="mailto:awilson@wdeptford.k12.nj.us">awilson@wdeptford.k12.nj.us</a> / 856-845-2727 ext. 5228
Green-Fields Elementary	Maria Budd	<a href="mailto:mbudd@wdeptford.k12.nj.us">mbudd@wdeptford.k12.nj.us</a> / 856-845-7929 ext. 6217
West Deptford Middle School	Kim Lee	<a href="mailto:klee@wdeptford.k12.nj.us">klee@wdeptford.k12.nj.us</a> / 856-848-1200 ext. 3205
West Deptford High School	Lynn Zoll	<a href="mailto:lzell@wdeptford.k12.nj.us">lzell@wdeptford.k12.nj.us</a> / 856-848-6110 ext. 2204

Very respectfully,

*Gregory J. Cappello*

Superintendent of Schools