



Indian Hills 2-Week Closure Notification

1 message

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Ramapo Indian Hills Regional H.S. District

Indian Hills 2-Week Closure Notification

Dear Ramapo Indian Hills High School Community:

Today we learned of a second laboratory confirmed positive COVID-19 individual at Indian Hills High School. The Bergen County Health Department has recommended that all identified students and faculty be treated as close contacts and quarantine out of an abundance of caution. Please know we worked closely with our public health experts to ensure that we identified anyone who had to quarantine as a result of a potential exposure to this confirmed case.

This is our second identified confirmed case within the last 14 days. At this point in time, our investigation has not revealed a clear connection between our case today and the one we experienced last week.

In consultation with administration, the Bergen County Health Department, and after reviewing the New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 public health recommendations for school closures, we have once again reached the very difficult decision to go fully remote at Indian Hills High School for the next two weeks.

We are taking these precautionary measures out of an abundance of caution in order to break any potential transmission chains and to provide time for potentially exposed individuals to develop symptoms while not in school. In our previous pause of the hybrid schedule, we have had additional Covid-19 positive cases reported to us that were able to be resolved without causing an outbreak in the school. The two week closure also allows time for further understanding of the local COVID-19

situation (e.g., community spread) and increases social distancing amongst the immediate school community.

We strongly believe that closing will provide us with the best chance to preserve as much of the in-person school year and related activities as possible. We believe that in-person experiences for school and extracurricular activities are the ideal and we are hopeful that taking these actions at this time will allow us to return to an in-person model as soon as possible.

Therefore, Indian Hills High School will shift to full remote instruction beginning tomorrow, November 17th and continue through the Thanksgiving holiday. We plan to return to the hybrid in-person schedule on Monday, November 30th. The virtual classes will follow our published schedule for hybrid learning which is posted daily on the district website. Doing so will allow for the continuity of learning districtwide. Additionally, all in-person extracurricular activities and athletics will be postponed during this closure and school grounds will be closed to the school and community. Extracurricular activities and athletics can resume on Saturday, November 28th.

As we have emphasized in previous communications, public health is a shared responsibility, and we all play a critical role in protecting our students, staff, and community from exposure to this virus. The choices we make moving forward will directly impact the functioning of our school.

We require your assistance in reminding and encouraging your family members and friends to observe the following guidelines without exception:

- Stay home when sick
- Wash hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds
- Limit close contact with people who are sick and avoid sharing food, drinks, and utensils
- Practice social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart)
- Wear a face covering while in school and outside of school when applicable
- Continue to monitor your health for symptoms

Additionally and equally important, please keep your child home from school if any of the following apply;

- Your child has had a known **close contact** with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the prior 14 days
- **Your child has had a laboratory test for COVID-19 and the results are pending**
- Your child has traveled outside the State of New Jersey to an area of high community transmission

You can expect continued communication from the school district as information becomes available. Please know we support and care about you and your families, and the health and well-being of your children and loved ones are of the highest priority.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Sincerely,

Michael Marano, Acting Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Greg Vacca, Principal

Ramapo Indian Hills Regional High School District

Indian Hills High School

Ramapo Indian Hills H.S District

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