



October 18, 2020

Dear Families,

I have received a few messages with follow-up questions about Dr. Charleston's letter from this afternoon. This correspondence will hopefully provide some further clarity.

As per Dr. Charleston's letter, **the NJDoH has the following recommendations:** [New Jersey Department of Health COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools](#). This link provides a full matrix and comprehensive analysis process in order for each school district to make the proper decision as to when to close schools. Based on all of the information provided to us, there was no need to close the schools or the district. Many districts across the state have faced the same issue we are dealing with and remained open. I encourage you to read the document paying particular attention to pages 11-15 and the definition of "close contact". We will always refer to this state document when faced with any COVID cases or reports.

In reference to **contact tracing**, contact tracers will be in touch with the infected students' teachers and will be calling the families of those high school students who shared a classroom with and who were within a certain distance of the infected students on October 15 and October 17. There is no need for contact tracers to contact everyone. Our contact tracers will be working with the local officials as needed.

Middle School and High School Operations This Week

Because no student or teacher in the middle school was exposed to the infected students, there was no requirement (as per the NJDoH guidance) to place the middle school on remote instruction Monday and Tuesday.

The high school will be in remote instruction mode on Monday and Tuesday so that our contact tracers can make the necessary notifications to families whose child(ren) may have been exposed. That process takes time and we wish to complete this task properly. Keeping the high school students at home for two days allows us to do this and is a precautionary measure.

Both the middle and high school schedule this week is as follows (it has not changed):

* Monday - A Day

- * Tuesday - B Day
- * Wednesday - Virtual 1/2 Day (A and B groups combined)
- * Thursday - A Day
- * Friday - B Day

Student Events and Athletics

In the spirit of caution, all athletic competitions (sans possibly Tennis) are canceled for Monday. Practices are still being held. Athletes must complete the daily COVID Questionnaire in Genesis prior to coming to practice.

All Homecoming planned events for Friday during the last two periods of the day are postponed as is the Food Truck Fiesta scheduled for Thursday and Friday. The yearbook photo retakes are also going to be rescheduled.

I hope this short briefing was helpful for you. As always, you can reach me with any questions you may have. If I am able to, I will provide you with answers or notify someone who can assist you.

Let's work together through this and use the guidance we have been provided by the NJ Department of Education and the NJ Department of Health. Our concerns are your concerns and your children are also our responsibility.

Be well. Stay safe.

Cordially,

Dr. Parent
Principal of Glen Rock Middle School and Glen Rock High School