



October 16, 2020

Dear Ridgewood School Community,

Over the past four weeks, New Jersey has seen a steady escalation of positive COVID-19 cases with the entire state now in Stage 2: Moderate Risk, according to the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). Our district has been fortunate that we have not had to quarantine any cohorts or close any buildings during the first month and a half of school; however, we have seen neighboring districts impacted by temporary closures.

This week, Governor Murphy signed [Executive Order 187](#) allowing medium and high-risk sports to resume contact practices and competitions in indoor settings with certain restrictions. The NJDOH issued [guidance for sports](#) on October 12 to ensure the health and safety of staff, participants, and their families. Organizers and participants must adhere to the health and safety protocols outlined.

With the COVID-19 transmission risk on the rise, as seen in the [COVID-19 Activity Level Index Weekly Reports](#), this trend adds a layer of concern to the complicated process of facilitating the transition to Phase 2. On Monday, October 19, Ms. Poelstra will give an update on our reopening plan, which will include a review of data collected from students, parents, and staff. The presentation can be viewed from the [webcast](#) of the Board of Education meeting, and it will be posted on the website the following day.

We all play an important role in mitigating the spread of the virus and keeping our communities open and safe. [Learn more](#) from the NJDOH about how to protect your family, your friends, and your neighbors. Please continue to remind your children about the importance of wearing a mask and social distancing, particularly outside of school.

Sincerely,

Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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