



October 22, 2020

Dear Ridgewood School Community,

Together, since March 13, 2020, we have navigated the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to sacrifice, commitment, and collaboration with national, state, and local guidelines, the COVID-19 curve was mitigated from a very dangerous level to one where successful reopening occurred for the state of New Jersey, including the reopening of the Ridgewood Public Schools on a hybrid or remote schedule.

However, as the state now transitions from Green (Low Risk) to Yellow (Moderate Risk), we must again call upon those efforts that have brought success. As we move through the fall season, people present many allergy, common cold, and flu symptoms. Moving forward into this season, we will continue to follow the guidelines established by the NJDOH and work closely with the Village of Ridgewood Health Department and Dr. Yankus, our School Physician, to keep schools open and, most importantly, to keep everyone in the community safe.

If your child is presenting symptoms of an illness and you choose to keep your child home, please continue to complete the Daily Symptom Check Questionnaire. This important step will provide you with guidance from the School Nurse on how to move forward with your child's primary care physician. The School Nurse and your child's primary care physician will be able to prescribe the appropriate steps to ensure a healthy and safe return to school for your child and the school community as a whole.

This global pandemic has challenged all of us and will continue to challenge us in the future. Together, as a true Village, we must continue to collaborate to mitigate the risks involved with this virus. This collaborative and confidential process will also assist with the important steps of contact tracing if it is necessary. Contract tracing will also mitigate the spread of the virus to other people. This is not a time to place judgment on an individual who may contract this virus.

As per the [guidelines from the NJDOH](#) during the Yellow (Moderate Risk) phase:

- An individual with COVID-19 compatible symptoms, as per the Daily Symptom Check Questionnaire, would be required to stay home for 10 days since the onset of symptoms. In order to safely return to school, the individual must be 24 hours fever free without medication AND demonstrate an improvement of symptoms throughout the 10 days at home.

OR

- An individual with COVID-19 compatible symptoms, as per the Daily Symptom Check Questionnaire, shall receive an alternate diagnosis or Negative COVID test result from their primary care physician in order to return to school.



Should you have any questions, please reach out to your School Nurse for confidential guidance.

We thank you for your cooperation and your ability to embrace the motto, “it takes a village to raise and support our children.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Fishbein". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Daniel Fishbein, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

C Board of Education
Dr. Wayne Yankus, School Physician
Dawn Cetrulo, Health Officer/Director, Village of Ridgewood Health Department