

HIGH BRIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

HIGH BRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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November 23, 2020

Good Afternoon High Bridge Families,

On Friday morning school administrators met with the Hunterdon County Department of Health. At the meeting, we discussed the shift of the Regional Risk Matrix from the moderate risk to the high risk column. Hunterdon County is now in the high risk column. The shift from moderate to high greatly impacts our daily school life. With this increased risk level, the county health department may advise us to move to virtual instruction for all students and/or restrict school activities. If we continue with in-person learning (as we plan to) in a designated “High Risk” region, the guidance from the New Jersey Department of Health is to treat anyone who has COVID-19-like symptoms as probable cases and quarantine any close contacts. This increased exclusion of individuals with COVID-19-like symptoms will be problematic as it will lead to more students and staff members on quarantine. ***At this time, we will maintain our current instructional model until further notice.***

People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

The shift to high on the Regional Risk Matrix dramatically impacts our, and all other New Jersey Public Schools, ability to navigate in-person instruction. We will remain vigilant in our pursuit to maintain in-person instruction but this new phase will mean potential closings, like we just experienced this past week, to allow for contact tracing. Please do your part by continuing to keep children who have symptoms of COVID at home, and informing your school nurse. If you are unsure whether your child should attend in-person instruction, please contact your school nurse for advice before sending them to school.

Although we know it will be difficult for all families, we suggest that families have a contingency plan in place if we need to switch to virtual instruction on short notice. Thank you.

Greg Hobaugh, Ed.D, Superintendent

www.hbschools.org

The Few, The Proud, The Hilltoppers!!