

# GLEN ROCK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Glen Rock:

With the recent uptick in positive cases connected to Glen Rock Schools, I wanted to take a moment to provide an update with how we will proceed. To date, there have been the following positive cases:

- 4 High School Students - 3 on October 17th (though one was fully virtual) and one on November 10th
- 1 Fully Virtual Elementary Student
- 2 Staff Members - one at Byrd and one at Hamilton

The District continues to remain in contact and consult with the school doctor, Glen Rock Board of Health and OEM. As communicated multiple times over these last several months, the District will continue to follow [New Jersey Department of Health guidelines](#). Page 15 of the NJDOH guidelines, shared below, identifies scenarios that schools can use to inform the decision making process when considering when remote/virtual learning is indicated.

In addition, Glen Rock Schools wants to clarify that to date none of the positive COVID-19 cases we have reported have been a result of in-school transmission. If your child is having symptoms, please do not send them to school or to athletics practice.

We understand the level of concern regarding COVID-19. We encourage parents and students to continue following the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention](#) promoted safeguards, such as:

- Staying home when you are sick;
- Washing hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
- Wearing a face covering while in school; and
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms.

Please be reminded that New Jersey's [Travel Advisory](#) remains in effect. For families that intend to travel to a state on the list, their children will be required to quarantine for 14 days upon returning to New Jersey. Please note that this advisory does not apply to individuals who passed through a designated state for a period of limited duration (i.e. less than 24 hours) through the course of travel.

As always, we appreciate our community's support and cooperation. You can assist us by remaining vigilant in your approach to dealing with this health concern. If you have any questions about COVID-19 symptoms, or any other concerns for you or your child, please consult your physician. Should you have any questions regarding the District's response to COVID-19, please feel free to contact your child's school nurse and/or principal.

Sincerely,



Brett Charleston, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

#### Closure

The [COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix](#) is one tool that can inform the decision-making process for school districts when considering when remote learning might be indicated. Local circumstances should be considered when making decisions impacting specific school districts and schools. Many factors would need to be considered when deciding to close schools such as the distribution of cases within the school. **Closure is a local decision that should be made by school administrators in consultation with local public health. While it is not possible to account for every scenario that schools may encounter over the course of the school year, the following scenarios may help inform the decision for when schools should temporarily close.**

SCENARIO	CLOSURE
1 confirmed case in the school	School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive case are excluded from school for 14 days.
2 or more cases in the same classroom (outbreak limited to one cohort)	School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive case are excluded from school for 14 days. Recommendations for whether the entire classroom would be considered exposed will be based on public health investigation.
2 or more cases within 14 days, but are linked to an exposure outside the school setting (e.g. in same household, exposed at the same event outside of school)	School remains open*; students and staff in close contact with positive cases are excluded from school for 14 days.
2 or more cases within 14 days, linked together by some activity in school, but who are in different classrooms (outbreak involving multiple cohorts)	Recommendations for whether school closure is indicated will be based on investigation by local health department.
A significant community outbreak is occurring or has recently occurred (e.g., large event or large local employer) and is impacting multiple staff, students, and families served by the school community	Consider closing school for 14 days, based on investigation by local health department.
2 or more cases are identified within 14 days that occur across multiple classrooms and a clear connection between cases cannot be easily identified (outbreak involving multiple cohorts)	Close school for 14 days.
Very high risk of community transmission (refer to <a href="#">COVID-19 Regional Risk Level Matrix</a> )	Close school until COVID-19 transmission decreases.

\* Note: A temporary closure may also be considered for a period of 2-5 days if a student or staff member attended school while potentially infectious, before being confirmed as having COVID-19. This short-term dismissal allows time for local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school and perform contact tracing.

Period of closure: After switching to remote learning due to high levels of viral transmission in the school or local geographic community, districts or schools should wait a minimum of 14 days before bringing any students back for in-person learning. This timeframe is sufficient so that most people in the