



November 24, 2020

Dear Farmingdale Families,

As we mentioned in our letter last Friday, the Department of Health sends weekly Covid-19 activity reports to schools and assigns them a color based on risk level with corresponding guidance. We are currently in **orange or high risk** and received additional updated guidance from our local health department regarding expectations for school districts. We feel it is important to outline all of our current guidelines for exclusion so you are able to apply them to your family, as needed.

Schools in counties that are in **orange/high risk** are expected to:

- Exclude staff or students who are Covid-19 positive or have Covid-19 [compatible symptoms](#) (not yet tested)
- **Exclude close contacts of a symptomatic or positive individual**
- Exclude close contacts (ex. siblings or household members) of someone who has been tested and pending results; ex. If a parent gets tested, children must stay home until results are received and have been cleared by the nurse to return to school
- ***We are no longer able to accept “alternative diagnosis” at this risk level for return to school when a student or staff member is exhibiting Covid-19 compatible symptoms.***
- Students and staff members are able to return when:
 1. Documented **proof of negative COVID-19 test** **and** remain fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication **and** symptoms have improved.

OR

 2. If **COVID-19 testing is positive or no testing was done or no visit to their Healthcare provider has occurred**, the person needs to stay home for a 10 day isolation period **and** 24 hours fever free without anti-fever medicine **and** other symptoms have improved.

- Decisions on when ill person's close contacts can return to school are dependent on the ill person's medical evaluation and Covid-19 test results.
- **Please keep your student home if any of the above circumstances apply and email the school nurse, Mrs. Katy Kokolus, at katy.kokolus@farmingdaleschool.com to start temporary remote instruction.**
- Before staff and students can return to school, please email the school nurse, Mrs. Katy Kokolus, at katy.kokolus@farmingdaleschool.com for clearance.

If the Health Department notifies us that our color has elevated to **red or very high risk**, schools are expected to implement *fully remote learning*. **We have not been advised to do this yet, but we feel it is important to let you know of the possible next step so you can prepare.** Your child may be instructed by his/her teacher to travel with materials to/from school to allow us to easily pivot to remote learning, if directed. Please make sure these materials return to school, daily, so they can be used in the classroom, too.

We would like to thank the community for continuing to stay vigilant and proactively contacting the school and our school nurse with specific questions. Your help has allowed us to remain open to in-person instruction and we hope to continue to do so for as long as we are able. As new guidance and direction comes to us, we will continue to advise all of our stakeholders so you can be best prepared. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the school at any time.

Thank you and I hope you have a safe and healthy Thanksgiving holiday.

Warm Regards,
Mrs. Edith Conroy
Superintendent