

November 20, 2020

Dear Farmingdale Families,

As you may be aware, the New Jersey Department of Health releases a weekly COVID-19 [activity report](#). Each county is divided into regions for the purpose of reporting, and Monmouth County is part of the region identified as “Central East”. Data is collected and reviewed related to COVID activity and the region is assigned a color for each weekly report. The colors are green (low activity), yellow (moderate activity), orange (high activity), red (very high activity) and correspond to protocols from the health department to guide schools when dealing with symptomatic and/or positive cases in the district. Up until yesterday, Monmouth County had remained in the yellow and green color, but with the latest report, we are now in the **orange**.

Let me be clear, we are not aware of any positive cases in the district; however, this color change impacts our current protocols for exclusion of students and staff related to COVID-19 activity.

During our time in the green and yellow, our protocols, under the guidance of the health department, included excluding individuals from school with symptoms of COVID, individuals who test positive for COVID, and close contacts of those who test positive for COVID. Now that our designation has moved to orange, we are required to change our protocols for exclusions and quarantines. Beginning Monday, November 23rd, we will be required to **also exclude individuals who are close contacts of individuals who have symptoms of COVID**. Therefore, if any members of your household are experiencing symptoms, all members, including siblings, should remain home from school until the ill person’s medical evaluation has been completed and any testing results (if instructed by your doctor) have been received. Please refer to our [parent letter](#) for Return-to-School criteria. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email our school nurse, Mrs. Kokolus, at [katy.kokolus@farmingdaleschool.com](mailto:katy.kokolus@farmingdaleschool.com).

We are grateful for your continued support and for staying vigilant.

Thank you,  
Mrs. Edith Conroy  
Mrs. Katy Kokolus