



# KINGSWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Committed to Excellence*

*Dr. James J. Lavender, ext. 4205  
Superintendent of Schools*

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School Business Administrator*

January 2, 2022

Dear School Community,

Happy New Year! May the New Year bring you peace, health and happiness.

The purpose of today's communication is to remind our parents and students that Kingsway will reopen on Monday, January 3, 2022 to full-day in-person instruction. As you may know, we are experiencing an increase in the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in our school community. Therefore, we are layering our health and safety protocol with additional mitigation strategies to better protect our faculty, staff and students against the spread of COVID-19. We believe these strategies are necessary in order to maintain in-person schooling, athletic competition and extracurricular activities. We are asking all faculty, staff and students to fully cooperate and adhere to this protocol.

### **Indoor Mask Mandate – Compliance Required**

All students and staff will continue to be required to wear cloth face coverings indoors. In order to be effective, masks must fit well and must cover your nose and mouth.

### **Exclusion from School**

Students and staff should be excluded from school when:

- **Two of the following symptoms are present:** fever, chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion, or runny nose; **OR**
- **One of the following symptoms are present:** Cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, or new taste disorder.

### **Quarantine & Isolation Rules**

In consideration of the CDCs [Recommended Isolation and Quarantine Period for General Population](#) shortening the recommended time for isolation and quarantine for the general public, Kingsway's quarantine and isolation protocol will be adjusted as follows:

- **Fully Vaccinated:** Exposed close contacts who are fully vaccinated and have no COVID-like symptoms do not need to quarantine, be excluded from school, or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
- **Unvaccinated:** Exposed close contacts who are not vaccinated and have no COVID-like symptoms will be excluded (quarantined) from school for 5 days and may return on the 6<sup>th</sup> day. Proof of a negative test is no longer required to return to school.
- **COVID-19 Positive:** Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 will be excluded from school and should isolate for 5 days and may return to school if they are asymptomatic or their symptoms are resolving (without fever for 24 hours). Be advised that a negative test is not required to return to school/work.

### **Exclusion from School & Virtual Instruction**

Beginning Monday, January 3 through Friday, January 14, any student absent from school for COVID related reasons may join class via live stream. The use of the virtual option for COVID related absences will mitigate the loss of instructional time while mitigating in-school transmission. Consequently, the district acknowledges the need to provide updated guidelines and parameters, key changes are highlighted below:

- Students can join class via the *Live Stream Link*; Links can be found at the top of any Schoology course.
- Students are expected to attend each class according to their bell schedule.
- Students will receive credit for virtual attendance when they are absent for COVID related reasons.

*Home of the Dragons*

- Students are required to have their *cameras on* during the entire class period to receive credit.
  - For students who are not attending in-person instruction, failure to attend live, synchronous sessions may result in unexcused absences. Please notify the attendance office accordingly.
- Students should log into Schoology during physical education class and complete the asynchronous assignment posted by their teacher. When a student's PE/Health class is meeting in a classroom for health, the teacher will live stream instruction and a live stream link will be posted in Schoology.
- More details, including student expectations and norms are located on our website:
  - [Students: Live Stream Expectations](#)
  - [Parents & Families: Live Stream Expectations](#)

### Limits on In-Person Staff Meetings and Non-Essential Events

The following limits on in-person staff meetings and non-essential events have been established for the month of January. We will continue to monitor in-school case rates and adjust this mitigation strategy accordingly.

- All staff meetings and parent information sessions will be conducted virtually throughout January.
- All out-of-district staff professional development meetings will be suspended until further notice.
- All student banquets and recognition/award assemblies will be postponed or conducted virtually.
- All student recognition programs at Board of Education meetings will be suspended for January.
- Winter MAP testing, originally scheduled to begin on January 3rd has been postponed.

### Medical Clearance & Documented COVID-Related Absences

Parents are required to contact the attendance office if/when their child is absent from school. Medical clearance to return to school/work will be required as follows:

- If/when symptoms persist longer than the 5 day isolation period.
- All student athletes must have medical clearance to return to sport pursuant to NJSIAA guidelines.

### COVID-19 Testing Options

If you have COVID-19 symptoms after being exposed, or have been in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19, there are now expanded free testing options available for New Jersey residents.

- **Saliva Test.** Order a free [saliva-based PCR test](#), shipped directly to your home at no cost.
- **Point of Care antigen and molecular tests.** Visit the [NJ Test Site Finder](#) to locate a testing site.
- **Drive Thru (rapid and PCR) testing** is currently being conducted at the [Clayton Government Services Complex](#).

We remain committed to keeping our faculty, students and staff safe and hope these additional mitigation strategies have the desired effect. We will continue to monitor transmission of the virus and adjust our COVID-19 mitigation plan accordingly.

Thank you for your time and attention to this announcement.

Very truly yours,



Dr. James J. Lavender  
Superintendent of Schools

