



SOMERS POINT
SCHOOL DISTRICT
the learning starts here!™

SOMERS POINT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Ed.D., Superintendent Ext: 3211
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November 30, 2020

Dear Somers Point Families:

Decisions regarding in-person/remote learning and the continuity of District operations are based upon the data supplied to us by the Atlantic County Department of Health. Two important documents were released on Friday, November 20, 2020, by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). [The COVID-19 Activity Level Index reports that our region has moved to the high activity level \(orange\)](#). Most concerning is the positive case rate, which is considered very high. Our region is currently one of the lowest in the state, however, Atlantic County numbers are in the very high range. The reason we are not higher is due to the other two counties in our region having lower numbers. Our state rank is due to an average of the three counties. [Further, the New Jersey Department of Health released updated guidance for schools.](#)

As per the updated guidance from NJDOH during the orange high activity level, anyone who has COVID-19-like symptoms will be considered a probable case and any close contacts of that individual should be quarantined. A close contact is defined as 15 minutes or more of contact within 6 feet to an infected person during a 24-hour period in which the infected person has symptoms. The 15 minutes of contact is cumulative. The determination of when an infected person's close contacts can cease quarantining is dependent on that individual's medical evaluation and COVID-19 test results. NJDOH recommends that anyone with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others:

- At least two of the following symptoms
 - ◆ Fever, chills, shivers, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose;
- At least one of the following symptoms:
 - ◆ cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

Please contact your school nurse immediately if your child tests positive for COVID-19 so contact tracing can be completed in conjunction with the Atlantic County Health Department. Mitigating the spread of COVID-19 is a total community effort. We appreciate you collaborating with us to keep our students and staff safe. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact your school nurses:

It is my hope that everyone had a safe and Happy Thanksgiving! I am constantly thinking about all of you!

Sincerely,

Michelle CarneyRay-Yoder, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools