



## South Harrison Township Elementary School District

Dr. Scott J. Hogan  
Chief School Administrator

Sarah Bell  
School Business Administrator

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Supervisor of Special Services

Allison Thompson  
Assistant Principal

December 23, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope you are all doing well and preparing for the holiday season, winter break, etc. As most are aware at this point, another COVID strain has emerged in the most transmissible variant yet. This strain is referred to as Omicron. Omicron was declared this week to have become the dominant variant in the United States, overtaking Delta. The rate of spread with Omicron is substantial. It is the rate of spread that has caused much of the recent discussion and concern.

Currently, only 4.62% of our students are in isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19. As a result of this percentage, we are not considering moving to a virtual option, or a half-day model in January at this time. **As a precautionary measure, our district will be canceling all clubs and activities both during and after the school day for a two week period following our return from Winter Break effective Monday 1/3/2022 - Friday 1/14/2022. This includes both after school remediation, as well as all clubs and activities. The YMCA program will continue to operate during this time.**

While some school districts in the region are enacting stricter measures, and others still are instituting little to no changes to their safety protocols, we believe this approach is a moderate one. Our approach minimizes additional risk of exposure to our students outside their homeroom cohort so that we can verify the rate of spread does not spike post winter break. Post-break periods tend to see a rise in our cases in the building during typical COVID rates of spread. We are currently at the "high" rate of spread per our regional CALI report (link below). With the increased rate of spread Omicron presents, we are being cautious without disrupting instruction. Lunch will still be served in the lunchroom, recess will still occur as it has been, etc. as of right now. **If the rate of spread reaches a point we must consider further safety measures, or further direction comes from the state, the district will alert parents to that via a school messenger update.**

Additionally, with the onset of winter break and the holidays, many are planning to gather with family locally, travel to various destinations for the holiday to visit family, take vacations, etc. We are providing information regarding COVID-19 for your consideration over the break to ensure your safety and that of our students over break, and upon our return. We have attached the Winter Break tip sheet for COVID-19 to this email. Further links and information are below with their descriptions. We appreciate everyone taking time to review the information.

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**COVID-19 information:**

[Link to CDC Travel Warnings surrounding COVID-19](#) (Throughout the world)

[Link to New Jersey's COVID-19 Information HUB](#) (Testing in person or at home, vaccination information, general guidelines for health and safety, etc.)

[Link within the COVID-19 HUB to COVID-19 Testing locator](#)- This is the link directly to the site for locating testing (it is a link toward the bottom of the HUB's main page).

[Link to New Jersey Department of Health's "CALI Reports" page](#) (This page provides updated rates of transmission around the state of New Jersey weekly county-by-county).

Despite our most recent challenges, we will continue our efforts in the new year to push for a return to a sense of normalcy as COVID-19 and our ongoing circumstances permit. While I know this letter is not the most upbeat news to deliver, I remain optimistic for 2022. We are grateful for all of our parent/guardian community's support, understanding, and cooperation. Your South Harrison team continues to strive to provide our Roadrunners the best educational experience we can while continuing to manage the unprecedented challenges the COVID era of education has presented to our nation's public schools, and those that work, teach in, and lead them. I cannot thank our administrative, staff, and support teams for all they do to keep our children in school, safe, and learning each and every day.

In closing, and on behalf of the entire Roadrunner Team I wish you and your families a happy, safe, and healthy holiday season, and a better and brighter 2022! We will see you all in the new year!

Sincerely,



**Dr. Scott J. Hogan**  
**Chief School Administrator**

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