



An IMPORTANT COVID-19 Message for WTS Parents & Guardians!

~ Friday, October 16, 2020 ~

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we get ready to welcome the weekend it is important that I share with you important, late-breaking information relative to the latest COVID-19 activity levels here in NJ and a resulting change in medical protocol for schools. **Please note the following:**

1. The COVID-19 "Current Activity Level" is now **MODERATE** in all 21 counties. Morris County and all North Jersey counties had been **LOW** since the start of the school year. To put things into greater perspective, last week's report had 10 counties rated LOW and 11 rated MODERATE ... conditions can change quickly for sure. What this means is that cases are on the rise. We all need to remain vigilant and adhere to the safety guidelines promoted by the CDC (both personally and professionally). Let's continue to wear face coverings, wash hands, and social distance to promote personal and family wellness.

2. CHANGE IN MEDICAL PROTOCOL: When a **MODERATE** activity level emerges, there are changes to the rules governing individual health and schools as outlined by the New Jersey Department of Health. The New Jersey Department of Health requires a ***doctor's note*** indicating an ***alternate diagnosis*** for *any student or staff member* to return to school after presenting with symptoms of illness as follows:

- If children present with ***TWO*** or more of the following symptoms they will need to have a doctor's note specifying an *alternate diagnosis* other than COVID-19 in order to return to school: ***SYMPTOMS: Fever, Chills, Rigors, Myalgia (muscle aches), Headache, Sore Throat, Nausea/Vomiting, diarrhea, Fatigue, Congestion or Runny nose.*** As a reminder, children who have illness symptoms but feel well enough to participate in school remotely may do so!
- If children present with ***ONE*** of the following symptoms they will need to have a doctor's note in order to return to school that specifies an *alternate diagnosis* other than COVID-19. ***SYMPTOMS: Cough, Shortness or Breath, Difficulty Breathing, New Loss of Smell, New Loss of taste.***
- Please seek medical attention if you find your child in one of the situations described above. If you do not seek medical attention then your child will be required to isolate for ten days with resolution or improvement of symptoms ***AND*** 24 hours fever free without the use of fever-reducing medication.

When Morris County returns to "LOW" activity level, we will likely reinstate the previous medical protocol unless the activity levels of surrounding counties dictate otherwise.

As a reminder, our School Nurses are here to provide you with guidance should your child experience any illness as is your pediatrician. Rest assured that WTS will continue to work closely with the Washington Township Board of Health as we strive to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and keep our schools open!

With appreciation to you all for your care, flexibility, and hard work on behalf of our community's children ...
take good care and enjoy the weekend!

Jeff Mohre
Superintendent of Schools