



TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS

Designated a High-Performing District by the NJDOE

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Statement, 9/29/2021

Information published today by external sources about our school district and its number of quarantined students demands clarification. It was falsely reported that more than 1,100 district students were in quarantine as of yesterday, but that figure combined the number of students who have reported testing positive, a cumulative figure (217) that is largely inclusive in the number of quarantined students.

Much of the recent discussion surrounding Toms River Regional Schools' number of Covid cases and quarantined students and staff aims to connect these figures with our district "beginning the school year mask optional," which is misleading and unfounded. For eight school days to begin the year, TRRS exercised the "excessive heat" exemption in Executive Order 251, but masks were only optional in buildings and spaces which did not have air conditioning. Since Sept. 20, the wearing of masks in all spaces has been required throughout the district, as per EO 251.

Currently, the number of students in quarantine—which, again, includes those who recently reported testing positive—represents six percent of our student population. Generally speaking, our numbers are consistent with a community at high risk of transmission, as Ocean County currently is.

In addition to adhering to all state and local guidance, the district has made sincere efforts to remain transparent throughout this pandemic, best evidenced by the [Covid counter published on our website](#), which is updated daily, as well as resources including a [parent handbook](#), a strategic [restart and recovery plan](#), and [a website dedicated](#) to responding to symptoms and cases. It's both curious and frustrating that this transparency has somehow resulted in misleading and inaccurate reporting.