



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: May 9, 2022
To: Local Educational Agency Leads, Administrators of Approved Private Schools for Students with Disabilities, Nonpublic School Administrators
From: Jorden Schiff, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Support and Services

Reminders: New Jersey Department of Health K-12 Guidance

For the past several weeks, the [COVID-19 Weekly Activity Report](#) has demonstrated Moderate (yellow) COVID-19 transmission levels across all regions. As cases in New Jersey continue rising, there is a possibility that some regions may move to High (orange) in the coming week(s). Local education agencies (LEAs) should continue to monitor the COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) and review the [COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools](#) to determine additional mitigation measures during periods of elevated community transmission.

When the COVID-19 level of community transmission is High (orange), the New Jersey Department of Education strongly encourages all LEAs to follow the NJDOH recommendations, including:

Masking: LEAs should strongly consider universal masking for all students and staff, especially if there is difficulty incorporating other layered prevention strategies (e.g., adequate spacing of students).

Activities: LEAs should carefully consider which activities they determine can continue, based on the individual activity's risks, strategies to reduce those risks, and the ability to ensure compliance with COVID-19 prevention recommendations.

Screening Testing: For schools participating in [screening testing](#) programs, testing of students who are not fully vaccinated participating in higher risk sports and extracurricular activities should occur twice per week. Screening testing of teachers and staff who are not fully vaccinated should also occur twice per week in compliance with [Executive Order 253](#) and [Executive Directive 21-011](#).

Schools should continue to consult with their local health department (LHD) and must report outbreaks (confirmed and suspected) immediately to the LHD.

If you have questions, please contact your [County Office of Education](#).

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group