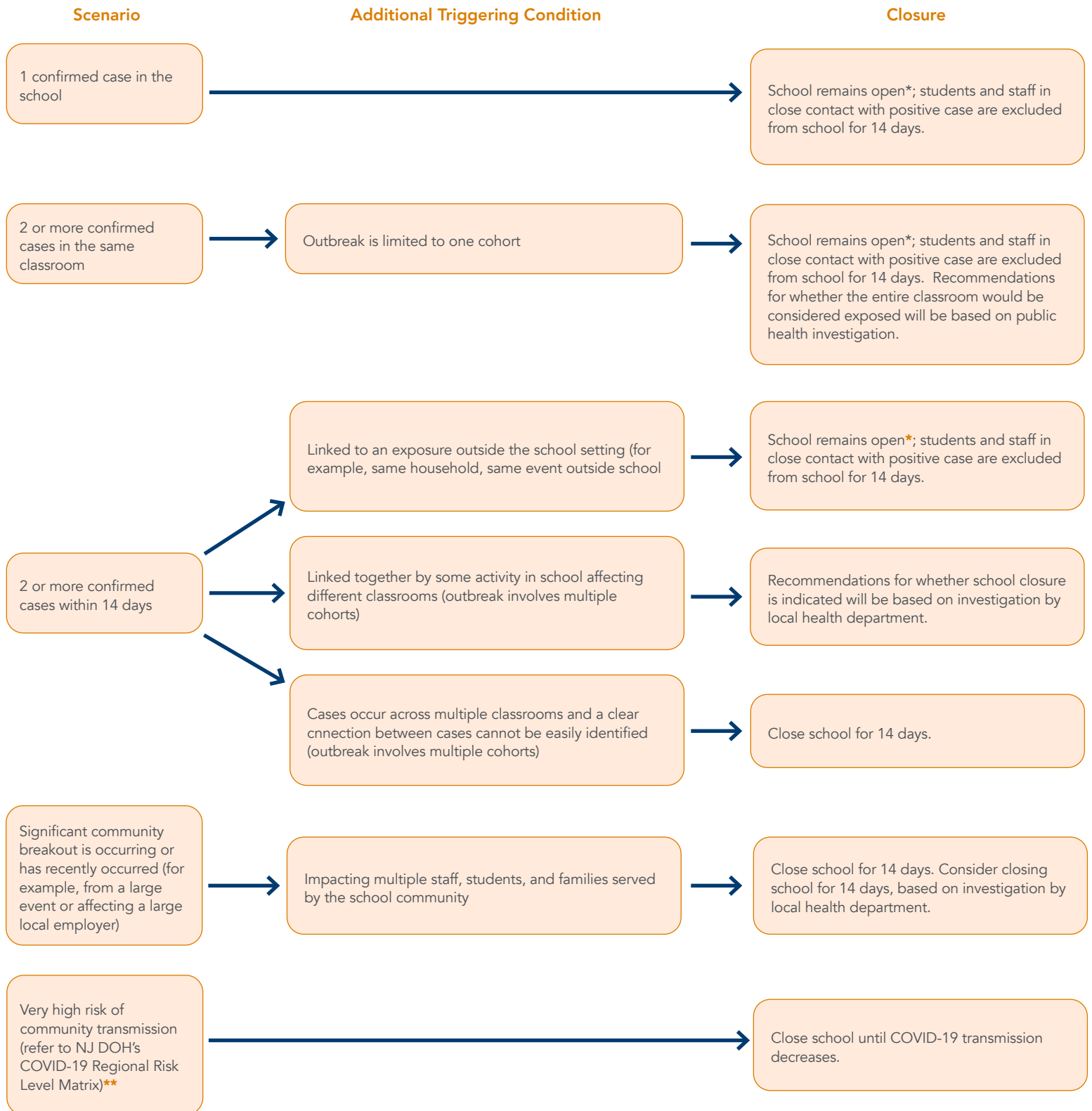


# njea SCHOOL CLOSURE GUIDANCE: Summary of NJ DOH Report

The following is a summary of the school closure guidance the NJ DOH has issued for K-12 schools. The guidance does not account for considerations unique to the higher education context, but its general principles may be useful for higher education to a certain extent.



\* Note: A temporary closure may also be considered for a period of 2-5 days if a student or staff member attended school while potentially infectious, before being confirmed as having COVID-19. This short-term dismissal allows time for local health officials to gain a better understanding of the COVID-19 situation impacting the school and perform contact tracing.

\*\* Below is the NJ DOH's COVID-19 Regional Risk Level Matrix. To determine whether your Region is considered **low risk**, **moderate risk**, **high risk**, or **very high risk**, visit this link for the most recent NJ DOH COVID-19 Weekly Activity Report: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/>

## COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix

*\*For use by LHDs when providing guidance to school districts*

Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk	Very High Risk
<p>Evaluate alternatives to in-person learning to ensure continuity of work or educational services.</p> <p>In response to COVID-19 positive staff or student, follow <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>; work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts following CDC guidance; refer to guidance on <a href="#">cleaning and disinfection</a>.</p> <p>In response to ill students and staff, follow <a href="#">NJDOH School Exclusion List</a>.</p> <p>* If ill person had potential exposure in past 14 days, follow <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>; wait at least 24 hours and <a href="#">clean/disinfect</a> areas where ill person spent time.</p> <p>Permit limited activities involving interaction with multiple cohorts, ensuring adherence to precautions.</p>	<p>Consider a mixture of remote and/or hybrid learning approaches, and/or fully remote learning.</p> <p>In response to COVID-19 positive staff or student, follow <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>; work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts following CDC guidance; refer to guidance on <a href="#">cleaning and disinfection</a>.</p> <p>In response to ill students and staff with <a href="#">COVID-19 compatible symptoms</a>, follow <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>; wait at least 24 hours and <a href="#">clean/disinfect</a> areas where ill person spent time.</p> <p>Minimize activities that involve interaction with multiple cohorts.</p>	<p>Consider implementing fully remote learning.</p> <p><b><i>If schools remain open for in-person learning:</i></b></p> <p>In response to staff or student who is COVID-19 positive <u>or</u> who has <a href="#">COVID-19 compatible symptoms</a> (not yet tested), follow <a href="#">COVID-19 exclusion criteria</a>; work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts according to CDC guidance; refer to guidance on <a href="#">cleaning and disinfection</a>.</p> <p>* Decisions on when ill person's close contacts can return to school are dependent on the ill person's medical evaluation and COVID-19 test results.</p> <p>Restrict activities that involve interaction with multiple cohorts.</p>	<p>Implement fully remote learning</p>
<p><b>RISK LEVELS GREEN, YELLOW, AND ORANGE (IF OPEN FOR IN-PERSON LEARNING):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require staff and students to stay home when sick or if they have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 within the past 14 days. Parents/guardians, students and staff should notify school administrators of illness and known exposure.</li> <li>Have a policy for daily symptom screening for students and staff; have plans for students and staff to report symptoms that develop during the day.</li> <li>In conjunction with local health department, identify COVID-19 rapid testing resources (viral testing) for when staff and students develop <a href="#">COVID-19 compatible symptoms</a>.</li> <li>Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at least daily.</li> <li>Ensure adequate hand hygiene supplies are readily available.</li> <li>Implement physical distancing measures (e.g., reducing occupancy (staggered schedules, use of alternate spaces), installation of partitions/physical barriers, cancelling large gatherings/events, maintaining defined cohorts).</li> <li>Implement source control through wearing face coverings.</li> </ul>			
<p><b>ALL RISK LEVELS</b></p>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keep abreast of NJDOE and NJDOH COVID-19 guidance and surveillance indicators.</li> <li>Exchange after-hours contact information with your local health department.</li> </ul>			