

Chesterfield Township School District

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Dear Chesterfield Elementary School Community,

As New Jersey records a record number of daily new cases, we are feeling the impact in our school. As mentioned in previous letters, our school continues to be a safe place for our students and staff with no evidence of spread within the building. However, the rise in cases around us is starting to limit our ability to properly staff the building due to staff being excluded pending testing results or due to quarantine. When I refer to staff, I am not only referring to classroom teachers. Our support staff are critical to our success in the building and are responsible for implementing many of our health and safety protocols.

I want to remind all parents that the Chesterfield Township School District continues to strictly follow all CDC and Department of Health guidelines. As you know, those guidelines became more restrictive when the Burlington County area entered the “High Risk” level within the state, and that has had an impact on staffing. However the strict guidelines, and our ability to follow those guidelines, are what is keeping our building safe. Unfortunately, we currently have 4 of our in-person classes who are fully remote for a short period of time. We also have 2 of our in-person classes who are in the building, but instruction is being provided virtually. On a positive note, our other 20 in-person classes continue to operate successfully in the school.

As you may have heard, the upcoming week could prove to be critical in the fight against COVID-19 due to the timing with the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend. To avoid a shortage in staffing and increased possibilities of COVID-19 entering the building, the district will be moving to a fully remote program for all students in our hybrid program in grades 2-6 for the week of December 7th – 11th. We anticipate all students in our hybrid program in grades 2-6 will return to the building on Monday, December 14th; however, we will make that determination at the end of this week.

To be clear, students who were serviced in the building prior to the start of the hybrid model in October, will continue to report to the building as scheduled. Also, students in our Fully In-Person Instructional Model in grades K-1 will continue to report to the building as scheduled. It is only those students in grades 2-6 who participate in our hybrid model who will transition to fully remote starting Monday, December 7th. Obviously, any student, class, or staff member who is currently required to be excluded or quarantine will continue to remain home.

Please know this decision is not made without considering many factors and we understand the burden a decision like this places on families. Our goal is to be able to continue to provide our in-person instructional models for all students and to provide that option, we must make a transition to fully remote for our hybrid students in grades 2-6 for the week of December 7th.

Sincerely,

Scott Heino

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