

# Chesterfield Township School District

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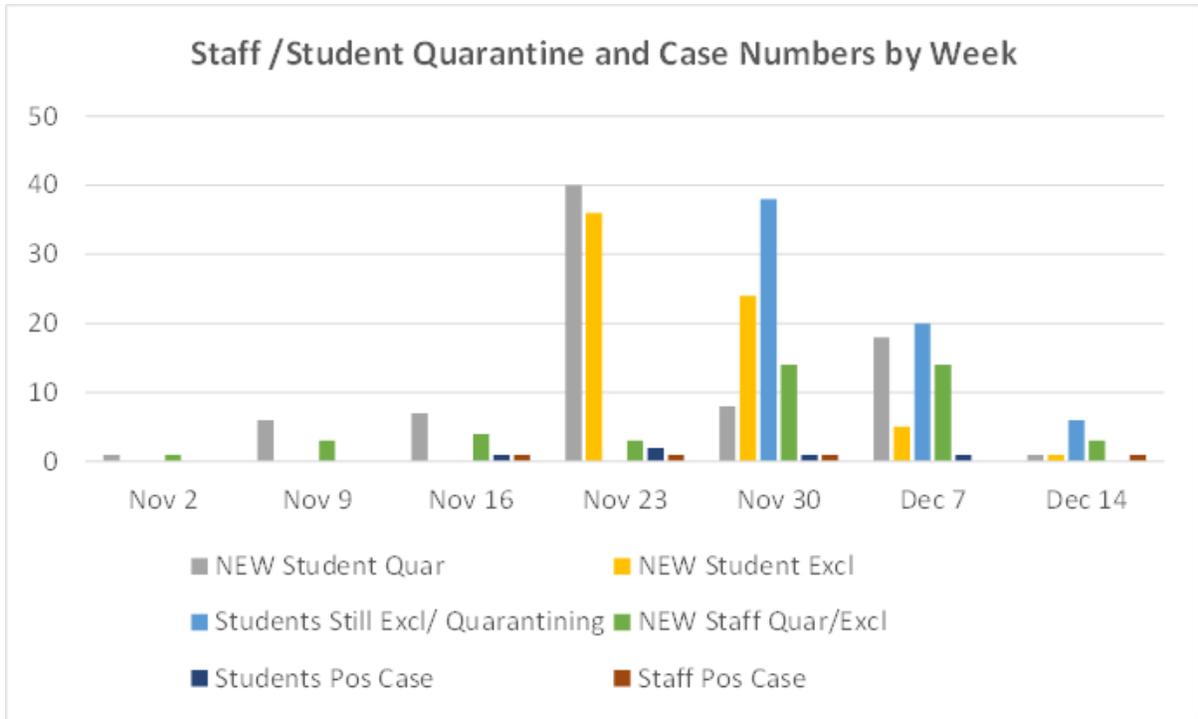
December 18, 2020

Dear Chesterfield Elementary School Community,

Next week winter recess will begin and I want to wish everyone a happy holiday and good health through the winter break. Wednesday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> will be an early dismissal day and students will return to instruction on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.

During the month of December, many of our students and staff have been victims of the pandemic. In some cases, testing positive for the coronavirus, but also being forced to be excluded from the building or having to quarantine. I've made the point many times, and I will state it again, our school continues to be a safe place for our students and staff as we have not experienced spread of the virus within our building. However, with the pandemic all around us, it does have an impact on our ability to safely open our doors to our students and staff for in-person learning. This is clearly demonstrated this month as we've been forced to limit our in-person instruction.

After analyzing the data, I have made the decision to begin January with all students and staff working remotely. All students will be remote from Monday, January 4, 2021 thru Friday, January 15, 2021. Students currently in our in-person instructional models (Fully In-Person Grades K-1/Hybrid Grades 2-6) will return to the building on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. As a school district, we understand the impact of this decision for our families; however, we feel that this two-week investment in the health and safety of our students and staff will benefit our in-person instructional models for the second half of January and throughout the winter. I have included a chart below to summarize the data that shows the spike in cases/exclusions/quarantining surrounding the Thanksgiving Holiday. Our goal is to avoid these spikes in January after the holiday break.



Again, I wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy holiday break and look forward to the start of 2021 as our school and the world around us begins to transition to life beyond the pandemic. It's certainly not over, but hopefully we are moving in a positive direction with an end in sight.

Sincerely,

*Scott Heino*

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