

## The COVID-19 Crisis: Updates on the Return (again) to Yellow

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools May 4, 2021 Board Of Education Meeting

#### Our Talking Points

Current attendance numbers.

Our journey in re-opening more fully.

Metrics that we have used and continue to monitor.





#### Some Numbers

The table below illustrates the **current** number of students who are virtual or in-person (5 days/week).

	RMS	HBS	TBS	WHS
Virtual	14%	11%	9%	14%
5 days	86%	89%	91%	86%

The table below illustrates the **February** number of students who were virtual or in-person (4 days/week).

	RMS	HBS	TBS	WHS
Virtual	16%	16%	14%	17%
4 days	75%	84%	84%	80%

Lower chart may not add to 100%



2. What steps have taken place to expand reopening?



#### Let's Review Reopening Steps

September 1: Began the year fully virtual with the exception of certain programs.

By October 13: All K-8 students back 4 days/week on a hybrid schedule.

November 30: Students with specific IEPs returned 4 days/week.

January 4: All K-5 Resource Room students returned 4 days/week.

January 11: All K-5 In-class Resource students returned 4 days/week.

February 22: All K-5 students returned 4 days/week.

March 1: All 6-8 students returned 4 days/week.

April 26: Wednesdays became in-person (5 days/week).



#### A Return to Yellow (again)

In order to expand reopening further, we waited for a return to yellow and improved case numbers across our region.

This occurred with the activity report dated **April 17** and has remained.



#### Wednesdays Became In-Person Days

- The transition to in-person Wednesdays has been smooth.
- Some minor within-school scheduling adjustments have been made.
- Staff are reporting that students are happy to be in school more fully.
- We are able to offer athletics on Wednesday afternoons as well.
- Reminder: Wednesdays are now in-person for all students who are attending in-person.



#### Graduation

Governor Murphy announced loosening restrictions:

- Outdoor gatherings to 500 persons.
- Outdoor gathering capacity limits for venues with 1,000 fixed seats will be 50%. Attendees must be 6 feet apart.
- Indoor gatherings are at a maximum of 50% or no more than 250 individuals.
- Planning for outdoor graduation.



#### The Full-Day Question

Challenges continue to be:

- Lunch service;
- Social distancing in cafeterias and classrooms where lunch may be served;
- Supervision during lunch periods;
- Impact of a positive COVID case on quarantine - particularly at RMS.
- Impact on fully virtual students.
- Our plans include waiting for Green on the Activity Report.





## 3. Metrics and reminders



#### Reminders

- This has been a slow, deliberate expansion process.
- We will use this time in "yellow" to evaluate our efforts, collect data, and make adjustments for student and staff safety.
- The timeline for next phases of reopening are to be determined.
- We do anticipate fall to be "normal" as expressed by the Governor.



#### The Activity Report

- ▶ This is from April 24.
- Displays COVID Activity by region.
- Our region has remained yellow. The rest of the state joined.
- We will monitor this data as the school year comes to a close.

Nu Jorsey Department of H	lealth	CDS Week	COVID-19 Activity Level Report New Jersey Department of Health Communicable Disease Service Week ending April 24, 2021 (MMWR week 16) <sup>1</sup>					
COVID-19 Statewide Activity Level Timeline								
800 144755 144755 144755 144755 14455555555555555555555555555555555								
2011 21/222 21/222 21/222 21/2								
Low	Low Mode		rate High		Very High			
	Reg	Region <sup>2</sup>		Current Activity Level				
		North	Northwest		MODERATE			
		North	Northeast		MODERATE			
		Centra	Central West		MODERATE			
		Centra	al East	t MO	MODERATE			
		South	Southwest		MODERATE			
X			Southeast		MODERATE			
			STATEWIDE		MODERATE			
COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI)								
	Case Rate <sup>3</sup>	Percent CL	1 <sup>4</sup> F	Percent Positivity⁵	CALI Score <sup>6</sup>			
Northwest	23.34 O	4.14	0	7.76 O	2			
Northeast	23.77 O	4.74	0	7.11 O	2			
Central West	16.18 O	3.20	0	5.36 O	2			

# THANKS!

### Any questions?

