## **COVID Updates: Moving Forward in the New Year**

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D. Superintendent of Schools Board of Education Meeting: January 4, 2022





### **OVERVIEW OF PRESENTATION**

- » Positive Case and Attendance Statistics
- » The COVID Activity Report
- » Safety Measures
- » What's to come: Test and Stay and New CDC Guidelines
- » Hybrid Instruction

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPAL...(still remains)**

Our goal is to prioritize **in-person**, **full-time** instruction to the extent possible. We are hoping for **minimal interruption** to students' instructional schedules. We will do this while balancing the requirements of the public health situation.

### **Statistics**

What is our case count? What did attendance look like yesterday?

**Student Attendance January 3, 2022** 

### Student attendance data:

1/3/22					
	Virtual	Absent			
District:	73	203			
RMS*	37	50			
HBS	19	41			
TBS	15	45			
WHS	2	67			
*RMS Absent includes 1 student that left early					

1/4/22				
	Virtual	Absent		
District:	127	132		
RMS	54	34		
HBS	31	25		
TBS	27	27		
WHS	15	46		

**Positive Cases from the Dashboard** 

### **Positive Cases Dashboard:**

#### 2021-2022

Building	Staff Members	Students		
RMS	7	65		
HBS	5	27		
WHS	7	16		
TBS	8	13		
<b>BOE/District</b>	5			
<u>Total</u>	32	121		

Last Updated: 1/4/22

January 2022

Building	Staff Members Studen	
RMS	2	36
HBS	2	11
WHS	2	3
TBS	5	3
BOE/District	1	
<u>Total</u>	12	53

### In School Transmission

New Jersey CO\	/ID-19				NJ CO	OVID-19 Hub	
Vaccination Overview	Cases and Trends	Hospital Census	Long Term Care	Case and Morta	ality Summaries		
NJ COVID-	19 School-F	Related Dash	nboards				
	Stat	ewic	le			elated CO by County	
					Confirmed Out 9	breaks Linked 45	d Cases
New Outbreaks Report		e School Outbreaks	Cumulative Cases Linke		Union County Confirmed Out 9	breaks Linked	d Cases
	0	04	2,2	~ /	Gloucester Cou Confirmed Out 7		d Cases
This dashboard displays con have been verified by Local September 7, 2021) <sup>1,2</sup>					Hunterdon Cou Confirmed Out 7		d Cases
Data from week ending 12/					Middlesex Cour		d Cases
Outbreak definition <sup>1</sup> : Three onsets within a 14 day perior household, and were not ide investigation or contact traci	d, who are epidemiol entified as close conta	ogically linked within t	the school setting, do	not share a	3 Warren County	46	d Cases
In-school transmission <sup>3</sup> : Tran the context of curricular activ		udents and/or school :	staff that occurs on sc	chool property in	2 Burdington Cou	12	

### In School Transmission in Readington

We have not received word from the Department of Health regarding any within school outbreak. I am aware of 2 cases that were *suspected* in-school transmission:

- » 3 case at RMS (during lunch and sports)
- » 1 case at TBS in preschool



### **COVID Activity Report**

How has the COVID Activity Report changed?

### **Activity Report**

December 25, 2021 Report. Our region remains orange, much of the state is red. Our region will likely turn red based on activity.

COVID-19 Activity Level Report New Jersey Department of Health Communicable Disease Service Week ending December 25, 2021 (MMWR week 51) <sup>1</sup>							
COVID-19 Statewide Activity Level Timeline							
<ul> <li>A manual sector s</li></ul>							
<ul> <li>Maine</li> <li></li></ul>							
Low	Moo	derate		High		Very High	
		Reg	jion <sup>2</sup>		Current	Activity Level	
Ar	P2	Norti Morris, Passaic	hwest Susse	k, Warren	VE	RY HIGH	
5	Nort Bergen, Es	heast sex, Hu	dson	VERY HIGH			
Les and and a second	h	Centra Hunterdon, Me			HIGH		
		Central East Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, Union			VERY HIGH		
SZ		South West			HIGH		
	7	Southeast Atlantic, Cape May, Cumberland			HIGH		
		STATEWIDE			VERY HIGH		
	COVID	-19 Activity Le	vel In	dex (CAL	I)		
		Percent C	LI <sup>4</sup>	Percent	Positivity <sup>5</sup>	CALI Score <sup>6</sup>	
Northwest	139.89 •	12.68	•	21	.30 O	4	
Northeast	188.21 0	18.51	•	23	8.42 0	4	
Central West	96.23 •	11.39	0	16	6.59 O	3	
Central East	125.18 •	18.55	•	21	1.71 0	4	
Southwest	77.97 •	11.65	0	17	7.18 O	3	
Southeast	67.87 0	4.61	0	15	5.25 0	3	
	S	TATEWIDE				4	

# 3.

### **Safety Measures**

What are the current safety measures? What may change as the Activity Report changes?

#### **Current Safety Measures**

Distancing: 3 foot distance between student desks. Barriers: Barriers in high traffic areas and offices. Hand Hygiene: Protocols for student hand washing during school

Cleaning/Sanitizing: Daily rounds of cleaning, electrostatic sprayers, increase outdoor airflow, sanitizer and soap available in classrooms.

### **More Precautions if Red**

If our region turns "red" the following will be <u>suspended</u> in order to prioritize in-person learning:

- » Sports
- » Clubs
- » Field trips
- » Facility Use
- » Visitors/In-Person meetings in school



### Some things to come...

What is test to stay? What are the new CDC guidelines? Could this impact schools?

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### Test to Stay (TTS)

Test to stay combines contact tracing and serial testing to allow asymptomatic school-associated close contacts who are not fully vaccinated and do not test positive for COVID to continue in-person learning, should a parent choose.

This would involve:

- » Identifying in-school close contacts;
- Testing close contacts every other day for approximately 10 days;
- » Obtaining parental consent.

#### The New CDC Guidelines

New Quarantine time frames from CDC state: "For people who are unvaccinated or are more than six months out from their second mRNA dose (or more than 2 months after the J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, CDC now recommends quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days." So...

- » 5 days of quarantine for close contacts
- » 5 days of isolation for positive cases

Fully vaccinated definition has been adjusted as identified above.

Both of these options maintain students in-school for in-person learning.

If our priority continues to be in-person learning, these options will be investigated.

...more details to come.

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### **Hybrid Instruction: Cameras On**

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What is hybrid instruction? Can my child log in to class?

Is my child eligible to log in to school?

There are 3 cases where children can log in remotely: If they are identified as a close contact in school and are quarantined.

If they are identified as a close contact elsewhere (at home, etc) and are quarantined- please notify school. If they are COVID positive and have recovered but are still in the 10-day isolation period. Hybrid, Synchronous Instruction Classes

Grade K-5: Teachers will have cameras on for all core academic periods (math, ELA, science, social studies).

Grades 6-8: Teachers will have cameras on for all 8 periods of instruction.

#### How long will cameras be on?

We plan to have cameras on during this surge of COVID. Our plans are to reevaluate on January 14 and 21 to see how many cases we have quarantined or positive.

We plan to reinstate tutoring sessions before February. This is intended to be **<u>short-term in nature</u>**, prioritizing in-person instruction.

### **THANKS!**

## **Any questions?**

