



Jonathan Hart, Ph.D., *Superintendent*
Jason M. Bohm, CPA, *Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

jhart@readington.k12.nj.us
jbohm@readington.k12.nj.us

P.O. Box 807 • 52 Readington Road • Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889 • (908)-534-2195 • (908) 349-3042 fax

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Dear Readington School Community,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Our schools have been open and operating on a hybrid schedule for several weeks now and we are beginning to approach the very busy (and fun!) holiday season. This letter is intended to provide you with information about the current COVID-19 situation and provide necessary reminders regarding the upcoming season.

The latest reports from the Department of Health have shown a steady increase in the number of new cases each day. Our state is reporting anywhere between 3,000-4,000 new cases in any given day. At one point this week we saw 3,800 new cases in a singular day. Despite these trends the number of school outbreaks remain low. This suggests the disease prevention measures in place in schools have been effective in greatly reducing transmission. Despite low transmission in schools, the most recent Activity Report for our region maintains at a moderate level indicated with the color yellow.

As we approach several school holidays and recesses, I want to remind you of the travel restrictions imposed by Governor Murphy. The states and territories listed are identified as having increasing rates of COVID-19. The greatest risk, of course, is exposing yourself and your children to an increased risk of contracting the virus. In addition, traveling to those destinations requires that you quarantine when you return home to New Jersey for 14 days. This includes travel by train, bus, car, plane and any other method of transportation. Where the 14-day quarantine period overlaps with the school calendar, it results in your children's inability to return to in-person instruction, which causes a disruption to their educational program.

If you would like to confirm whether a particular destination is designated as having increasing rates of COVID-19 that require you to quarantine if you travel there, you may access the Governor's website at: [covid19.nj.gov/travel](https://www.covid19.nj.gov/travel). As of November 10, 2020, there are currently 45 states and U.S. jurisdictions that are impacted. This website is updated daily.

Also related to travel are upcoming holiday celebrations. Gathering with individuals outside of your household can pose an increased risk to you and your immediate family. The CDC has recently put out guidance regarding safety during holiday get-togethers, particularly Thanksgiving. Please remember to practice safety precautions when gathering with others. This includes wearing a mask, maintaining a 6-foot distance from those who do not live with you, and washing hands. For more information on conducting a safe celebration, visit the [CDC website](https://www.cdc.gov).

We are eager to move into another phase of reopening more fully for in-person instruction, and we are committed to continuing an incremental phase in approach. Given the current status of the public health crisis, we plan to do this in a methodical, gradual way, prioritizing small groups of students with special needs. If your child meets eligibility criteria to return to school, you will be contacted by the Pupil Services Department.

Thank you all for your commitment and resiliency during this challenging time. With your support, we will continue to meet the challenges ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonathan Hart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools