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March 26, 2021

Dear Readington Parents and Families,

This week the New Jersey Department of Health issued updated guidance that affirms the ongoing effort to reopen schools more fully for in-person instruction. I take this as a sign of considerable movement toward normalcy. Don't get me wrong, the COVID-19 pandemic is still with us in full force as we continue to see positive cases within our school community. However, we must continue to recognize the efforts made to prioritize in-person learning and rebuild after the pandemic. This letter includes the activity report update and a survey as we look toward spring and fall.

Yesterday, our district learned we have remained at the orange activity level according to the <u>COVID Activity Report</u>. The case rate has dropped slightly along with percent CLI but the percent positivity has increased slightly. I remain optimistic that we will eventually see a return to yellow. Simultaneously, I am concerned about the aftermath of spring break, as we have seen spikes in cases after break periods. A return to yellow will require our collective effort in maintaining appropriate CDC and state protocols. We, as a district, will continue our efforts to follow safety protocols while still maintaining expanded inperson learning.

In an effort to continue implementing the Readington Ready Plan, our district has developed a survey to gauge how our planning has gone so far and to consider the future of our work. We are asking parents to fill out the survey by clicking on the appropriate link below. Please fill out one survey per child at each grade band no later than April 1.

K-3 Survey 4-5 Survey 6-8 Survey

As mentioned earlier, COVID-19 is still a public health threat that must be taken seriously. Once again, unnecessary travel is strongly discouraged. All families and staff who are considering travel are expected to contact the school nurse. While New Jersey travel restrictions allow individuals to test out of the mandatory 10-day quarantine on day 8, our district reserves the right to mandate a full 10 days as the travel situation develops. Family gatherings are certain to happen over spring break. Please be reminded that larger family gatherings allow for high COVID transmission. Use extra precaution when visiting with family over spring break.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.

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Superintendent of Schools