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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you enjoyed the Thanksgiving weekend! As we suspected, the cold weather combined with the holiday weekend has shown an increase in COVID cases impacting our schools. The good news has been that many of the positive cases were noticed prior to school re-opening on Monday, therefore, there was little contact tracing and quarantine of our staff and students. However, we continue to see cases reported in our district on a daily basis. This letter serves as a reminder with some updates as we wish to keep our school community healthy for the holiday season.

The COVID Activity Report: This week's [COVID Activity Report](#) now designates our region as Orange. This means we are seeing a high level of COVID activity. Based on this designation, our district will now be required to quarantine unvaccinated staff and students for 14 days with no ability to test out earlier than 14 days.

The Readington COVID Dashboard: Remember to check our district [COVID Dashboard](#) to track numbers of cases. If any case leads to quarantine, families will be contacted by the School Nurse or School Principal. If you wish to gather more information about a positive case, such as the last date in school please contact the School Principal or me.

Hybrid Learning/Internet Connectivity: On a few occasions we have moved certain classrooms to a hybrid teaching model like last year due to the number of quarantined students. You may find that teachers are surveying families to ensure internet connectivity in the home. Please understand that this is a precautionary measure in the event we need to provide more hybrid instruction in the coming weeks due to quarantine.

Illness of Students: If your child is ill, the best thing to do is to keep your child home. We cannot emphasize how important it is for the health of our school community. This ensures that illness of any kind does not come to school. I realize this is a challenge, I've experienced it with my own family, but it's a necessary disease mitigation measure.

Vaccines for Children: Please be reminded that fully vaccinated children do not need to quarantine as long as they are asymptomatic. The past two Wednesday Blasts provide parents with options should you wish to find vaccine availability for your child(ren).

Masks in Schools: Per the Governor's Executive Order our district requires masks to be worn in our school buildings. Please ensure that you have a mask on when visiting our schools. This includes indoor sporting events and winter concerts.

Visitors to Schools: We are not yet restricting visitors to our school buildings. However, if this trend of high COVID activity continues we may have to begin other mitigation measures like restricting visitors. This may include HSA events, guest speakers/readers, and assemblies.

Thank you for all of your continued support and patience. I realize the challenges of COVID are still with us and it can be awfully frustrating. We will continue to forge ahead through this unfortunate and unprecedented situation.

Very truly yours,

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