



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 District Parents and Guardians,

Since school reopened on January 3, we have begun to count our positive staff and student COVID cases, identify quarantined students, and prepare for increased COVID activity over the course of the next few weeks. This letter provides you with more details about how the school district will handle the ever-changing COVID situation.

Synchronous Instruction

Starting on Thursday, January 6, 2022, our district will reinstate the “cameras on” hybrid learning model in order for the growing number of excluded students to access their class instruction. Students will only be eligible to log into classes if they meet the following criteria:

- The student has been identified as a close contact within school, at a school event, or in the home and is quarantined;
- The student has COVID-like symptoms and is excluded from school while awaiting test results;
- The student has tested positive for COVID and has recovered but is still within the 10-day isolation period.

Please be sure to notify your child’s school nurse if your child falls into the above scenarios. In grades K-5, cameras will be on for core academic classes, specifically, English/Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science. Grades 6-8 will have cameras turned on for 8 academic periods (this excludes student lunch). This is only a temporary measure as the number of COVID positive students and quarantined students has risen dramatically. Sources indicate that this COVID surge could be resolved in the next several weeks. Our district will reevaluate this practice on January 14 and January 21, hoping to re-focus on in-person instruction no later than the end of January.

The Activity Report Turning Red

The COVID Activity Report is likely to turn our region to the red designation on Thursday. This will mean very high-levels of COVID activity in our community. In order to mitigate further spread and prevent any more opportunities for student exclusion, the district will suspend the following:

- All after-school athletic programs;
- Off-site field trips;
- Visitors to our school buildings (all meetings will move remotely to the extent possible);
- After school clubs (some clubs may be offered virtually);
- Indoor facility use with the exception of the YMCA program.

We apologize for the inconvenience but suspending these programs or moving them to a virtual platform reduces the likelihood of close contact, quarantine, and transmission of COVID.

Chromebooks/iPads

District operations remain stable but can change on a day-to-day basis. To that end, all staff and students must prepare for operational issues that could impede opening schools. In order to arrange for a switch to virtual learning we are asking all students to take Chromebooks and iPads home each day. It is our intention to provide in-person instruction every day but we must remain prepared for disruption.

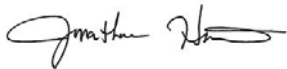
Reporting a Positive Case to our Nurses & School Staff

Parents have been very helpful in reporting positive COVID cases to our school nurses and school offices. In order to best determine quarantine timelines, please be prepared to provide our school staff with the following information:

- Date child tested positive;
- Date of symptom onset, if known;
- Last day the child was in school;
- If the child took the bus and dates s/he took the bus (AM/PM runs).

Finally, I want to acknowledge the difficulties and frustrations we are all experiencing during this time. Our district staff wants nothing more than to have all students back in school for in-person learning like the good old days. At this time, we must remain vigilant and cautious as this wave of the pandemic continues. Further, we are adhering to protocols provided to us by our partners at the Health Department. We remain in contact with them in order to adjust and revise protocols if possible, but in the end, we use their guidelines to mitigate disease in schools. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we adjust our school operations and navigate this wave of the pandemic.

Very truly yours,



Jonathan Hart, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools