

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SUSSEX-WANTAGE REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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November 20, 2020

Dear Sussex-Wantage Community,

I am writing to update you on our most recent COVID-19 positive case as well as provide you with an update concerning future operations. At this time, all individuals who were deemed to be close contacts of our current COVID-19 positive case have been notified by one of our school nurses. If you were not notified by our nurse, you should not anticipate being contacted by the Department of Health (DOH). The DOH has increased the COVID-19 Activity Level for our region from Moderate to High. The High Level designation will significantly impact the way our school district is able to continue to function.

The High Activity Level requires the school district to contact trace and quarantine all students and staff who come into contact with anyone with COVID-19 compatible symptoms. Close contacts of an individual with COVID-19 symptoms should be excluded through 14 days from the date of last contact, or until the ill individual receives an alternate diagnosis or tests negative for COVID-19. The COVID-19 Activity Level Reports can be found at the following link: <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/>

At this time, we are planning to remain open next week, but you should prepare to shift to all remote learning at any time given the requirements of the DOH. All students will be following their normal in person A or B cohort schedule for next Monday and Tuesday on an early dismissal schedule. Wednesday will be a normal all remote day, but will run on an early dismissal schedule.

Also, based on DOH information, they expect us to move to a "Very High" (Red) Activity Level in the near future which will then pivot us into all remote learning after Thanksgiving. The length of time we would be remote will be determined by a DOH recommendation. However, I would like to provide everyone with ample notice that the possibility exists, given the current statistical trends, that fully remote instruction **could** extend up to two weeks after the New Year's Holiday, or January 18th. We will monitor the situation next week and keep the community informed, but everyone should begin to prepare for that possibility.

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We appreciate the way our students, staff, and parents have been adhering to all protocols and guidelines to support a safe school environment. If your child or anyone in your immediate family is experiencing any symptoms consistent with COVID-19, we are requesting that they **stay home** from school and contact our school nurses. We will transition these students to remote status immediately.

Please know that the health and well-being of our students, staff, and the entire school community are of the utmost importance to us. As more information becomes available I will continue to keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Michael Gall
Superintendent/CEL Principal