31 December 2021

Dear Allamuchy Community,

Due to a substantial increase in Covid-19 cases, our region, for the first time, has entered the "very high" or "red" category of the New Jersey Department of Health's (NJDOH) Covid-19 Activity Level Report (CALI). While this is concerning, taking into consideration Allamuchy's numbers, the low level of spread within schools, and consultation with the county education and health departments, the **Allamuchy Township Schools will be reopening on January 3, 2022 for in-person instruction**. We will continue to follow all masking protocols and social distancing guidelines. Vaccination continues to be encouraged by the CDC as it reduces the likelihood of illness and may prevent the necessity of quarantine with situations of close contact. If your child is vaccinated, please send a copy of vaccination information to your school nurse.

Despite updates to CDC guidance regarding isolation and quarantine procedures, at the present time, the NJDOH has not changed these protocols for school students and staff. Therefore, the following timelines and procedures remain in effect:

- Isolation (applies to a person who has tested positive) 10 days
- Quarantine (applies to a person who is a close contact) 10 days. However, this time may be shortened to 7 days with a negative test that was administered 5-7 days after last exposure.
- When a household member tests positive unvaccinated individuals need to quarantine for the member's 10 days of isolation and then begin an individual quarantine.
- Vaccination vaccinated individuals are not required to quarantine unless presenting with symptoms.

If the state makes any changes to its guidance regarding isolation and quarantine procedures for school students and staff, we will inform you in a timely manner.

We are looking forward to a happy, healthy, and safe New Year. As we navigate the continuing challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic, please know that as a district we are committed to ensuring our students receive in-person instruction as studies have shown that this is the most effective way to promote a student's academic and social/emotional growth.

To make this possible and to prevent school-based transmission, please remember to inform your school nurse and keep your student home if there is a positive Covid-19 case in the household, members of the family are showing symptoms, your child was a recent close contact, or if your child has tested positive for Covid-19. (Fully vaccinated students may continue to report to school unless showing symptoms.) If your student is placed in quarantine or isolation but is well enough to work from home, we will arrange for material pick-up and will provide a link for your student to join his/her classroom(s) virtually.

Happy 2022! We look forward to seeing you on January 3.

Sincerely,

Melissa Sabol Superintendent of Schools