



13 November 2020

Reference: Contains highly important information

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We have been watching the pandemic situation and analyzing health rates in collaboration with the Warren County Health Department. Our area is currently at a yellow or moderate risk. Please look at the following diagram to see more information regarding a level “Yellow” or “Moderate Risk”.

Moderate Risk
Consider a mixture of remote and/or hybrid learning approaches, and/or fully remote learning.
In response to COVID-19 positive staff or student, follow COVID-19 exclusion criteria ; work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts following CDC guidance; refer to guidance on cleaning and disinfection .
In response to ill students and staff with COVID-19 compatible symptoms , follow COVID-19 exclusion criteria ; wait at least 24 hours and clean/disinfect areas where ill person spent time.
Minimize activities that involve interaction with multiple cohorts.





The Allamuchy Township School District has been utilizing a hybrid approach to learning that provided education through both in-person and remote means.

With each positive Covid-19 case, we have contacted the health department and followed their guidance to conduct contact tracing. Those individuals who were in close contact with a positive case were informed and asked to quarantine.

The District also followed through with disinfecting.

We have been informed today, the cases of COVID-19 are increasing rapidly in Warren County and the Northwest Region. It appears likely that the area will enter into the orange or high risk phase as early as next week. With this information being presented to the District, **we have decided to pause our expansion plan and not combine the MVS cohorts on Monday, November 16.** At this time, we will continue to operate in the hybrid schedule with separate Blue and Gold cohorts. The combining of cohorts will be revisited pending local health status

and Health Department recommendation. We will keep you abreast of the situation as more information is provided to us. Please see the table below to see the COVID-19 Activity Level Index which provides an overview of the different levels of risk:

Table 1: COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) ^{6a}					Table 2: COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) ^{6b}		
	Value	Case Rate ³	Percent CLI ⁴	Percent Positivity ⁵	Legend	Final Activity Level	CALI Score
Low	1	< 1	< 1.68%	< 3 %		Low	1
Moderate	2	1-10	1.68 - 5.51%	3-10 %		Moderate	2
High	3	10.01-25	5.52 - 13.08%	10.01-20 %		High	3
Very High	4	> 25	> 13.08%	> 20%		Very High	4

We were also informed today that following [NJDOH's COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for LHDs for K-12 Schools](#) districts should prepare to take the following actions, once the Regional Activity Level reaches “High Risk” or orange:

High Risk	Very High Risk
<p>Consider implementing fully remote learning.</p> <p><i>If schools remain open for in-person learning:</i></p> <p>In response to staff or student who is COVID-19 positive <u>or</u> who has COVID-19 compatible symptoms (not yet tested), follow COVID-19 exclusion criteria; work with local health department to identify and exclude close contacts according to CDC guidance; refer to guidance on cleaning and disinfection.</p> <p>* Decisions on when ill person's close contacts can return to school are dependent on the ill person's medical evaluation and COVID-19 test results.</p> <p>Restrict activities that involve interaction with multiple cohorts.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">Implement fully remote learning</p> <p>In this phase, it is the plan of the Warren County Districts to continue to operate with hybrid learning with the new protocols in place while feasible.</p> <p>Restrict activities that involve interaction with multiple cohorts (Sports and other extracurricular activities)</p> <p>If in-person learning continues, implement enhanced contact tracing and exclusion of close contacts of students and staff who have COVID-19 compatible symptoms <u>even if not yet tested</u>. This would include students or staff who call in sick.</p>

By the end of next week, analysis of current data will be concluded and results will be released. At that time we, as a district, will review the data and plan to move forward accordingly.

The Warren County Health Department also recommends the following exclusion practices to reduce the risk to students and staff:

Any of the following points below WILL require students or staff to quarantine and participate virtually for 14 days:

1. Travel to a state impacted by NJ's travel advisory.
2. Attending an indoor private residential gathering with more than 10 people unless they are in the same household.
3. Attending any public gathering where 6 foot distancing is not maintained or masks were not being worn.

These recommendations have sparked discussions regarding the safe operations of schools for the two weeks following Thanksgiving Break. **While the region is in a “Moderate Risk” (yellow) category, the data is trending toward the “High Risk” (Orange) category. Should the data indicate the region is in the “High Risk” category, the district will need to seriously consider remote learning for the district for a period of time after the Thanksgiving Break.** The District should have an update on this by Friday, Nov. 20. We will communicate the information with you at that time. We are sharing this information so families are informed and can plan accordingly over the next several weeks.

Thank you for your understanding and please stay healthy and safe.

Truly,

The ATDS Admins