



Montgomery Township School District

November 18, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff:

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge our district and community. It should be noted that while the transmission rates within our schools remain low we are seeing an increase in cases in our community and state. As we approach the holiday season, there are a number of factors the district must consider when evaluating in-person instruction. **In consultation with the district's school physician and the Montgomery Township Health Department, we have made the decision that starting on Monday, November 23, 2020, the district will operate on our full virtual model of instruction for all students. The hybrid in-person model for instruction will resume on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.**

The decision to implement the fully virtual model was determined with all stakeholders in mind. The district has evaluated the current number of confirmed and probable cases in the district, the ongoing staff shortages due to staff members in quarantine, the reported numbers of families and staff traveling over the holidays and the rising numbers of positive cases in our community.

We are committed to providing as much in-person instruction as possible; and in order to do so, we must be proactive. The switch to full virtual instruction will afford the district ample time to thoroughly clean and disinfect the buildings, see staff return from quarantine exemptions and allow for families to mitigate the spread of the disease that may result from traveling or family gatherings. While the district is on full virtual instruction, athletics will continue as long as governance permits.

We would like to acknowledge our community for the measures you have taken so far and ask that you remain committed to the recommended health and safety protocols. The holidays are historically a time when we gather in celebration and reverence. Looking ahead, I would like to highlight the state and CDC guidelines for travel. Per the state's website:

*Under the 14-day quarantine travel advisory announced by the Governors of New Jersey, New York and Connecticut, individuals traveling to or returning to New Jersey from states with increasing rates of COVID-19 are advised to self-quarantine for 14 days. This includes travel by train, bus, car, plane and any other method of transportation....The self-quarantine is voluntary, **but compliance is expected.***

For a list of the states which are on the travel advisory list, visit the [NJ COVID Travel Restrictions](#) page. In addition, many countries are still categorized as a Level-3 high COVID-19 risk, and the CDC recommends avoiding all nonessential travel to these



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countries. To learn more about these high-risk areas, visit the [CDC's COVID-19 Travel Recommendations by Destination](#) page.

I want to wish you and your family all the best. Together, we are a strong community and we will continue to support each other through these times. Have a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,
Mary E. McLoughlin
Superintendent of Schools