



HADDON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

Broadcast

January 28, 2021

Dear Parents and Staff,

Earlier today, I participated in the weekly conference call with the Camden County Department of Health and received positive news. For the first time in many weeks, there has been a sizable decrease in COVID-19 transmission. The **county** percent positivity rate now rests at **9%**, while the transmission rate is currently **0.92%**. The lead doctor on the call stated, "***the county COVID-19 spread is now in a slow and controlled fashion.***"

While the need for social distancing is still paramount, our school district will be transitioning into Phase II of our return to school plan. Please see details below:

Elementary Schools

- Effective **Thursday, February 11th**, we will transition to **full days** of school on Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri.
- Cohorts will remain in place, with H-students meeting on Mondays and Thursdays and T-students meeting on Tuesdays and Fridays.
- Wednesdays will remain a Full Remote Day.
- A variety of lunch areas will be utilized, including classrooms where desk shields and 6 feet distance will be used and maintained.
- The time between now and February 11th will be utilized to plan for food services.

Rohrer Middle School and Haddon Township High School

- Effective **next week**, we will eliminate Wednesday's full remote days, and Wednesdays will now be in-person student days.

- **Wednesday, February 3rd, will be an in-person day for Cohort H, and Wednesday, February 10th will be an in-person day for Cohort T.**
- Cohorts will remain in place, with H-students meeting on Mondays and Thursdays and T-students meeting on Tuesdays and Fridays. The cohorts will alternate each Wednesday.
- All schedules will remain 4 hour in-person days, and students will continue to have lunch at home while responsible for their afternoon online commitment.

Special Education

- We will be increasing the amount of in-school time for self-contained special education classrooms that **may or may not** follow the parameters above. The Child Study Team will be communicating with individual families and classrooms regarding these in-person increases. However, please be assured we are committed to increasing the amount of in-school time for all students.

Rationale

- From the start of this incredible journey, we stated the importance of examining the possibility of in-school expansion with a differentiated lens. All school levels ***"should not be painted with the same paintbrush"*** as there are many unique and varying contextual factors to expanding schedules at each level.
- The decision to expand the elementary students to full days while keeping our middle school and high school students at half days **rests with our capacity to serve school lunches** and manage the lunchtime routine in a socially distanced fashion.
- Keeping the Wednesday remote day in the elementary schools while eliminating it in the upper grades is because of the **social and emotional importance of a whole class connection in these developmental grade levels**. Wednesday is the only day all students are together with their teacher without masks.

I realize that this email does not answer all of the logistic questions and those details are soon forthcoming from your child's school. This step forward may be viewed to be too ambitious or too soon, or not aggressive or soon enough, depending on your own family's experience. Regardless of everyone's unique perspective, I would like to thank each of you for your patience and support during this process. If this next step goes well and the transmission rates continue to fall, we will take another step forward in the Spring.

It continues to be an honor to serve as the Haddon Township School District Superintendent, and I thank you very much for your support. Have a great evening.

-Sincerely, Robert J. Fisicaro Ed. D.