



# WOODBURY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*A Leader in Personalizing Education*

December 22, 2021

New Jersey's schools are seeing the highest number of COVID cases since they reopened for in-person instruction in September.

The rate of infection has more than doubled for students in less than a month.

For every 1,000 students, 2.05 tested positive in the middle of November. That number increased to 4.56 students for every 1,000 on Dec. 5.

Staff COVID cases increased even faster, reported at 5.79 cases per 1,000 on Dec. 5, up from a 2.40 rate in November, according to the state's virus dashboard. Most recently, our numbers within the Woodbury City Schools have also increased. There are many factors that are contributing to the rise in the infection rate, the most notable being the Omicron variant. Cases of Omicron are doubling about every two days across the nation. In the past week, the percentage of Omicron cases in the United States rose from 13 percent to 73 percent. This has undoubtedly had an effect on our school community.

As a result of our own contact tracing after reports of positive cases this week, we were able to narrow down that our increased number of students who have to be quarantined can be attributed to exposure during lunch periods where students are unmasked for longer periods of time while eating. As we know, many will be spending time with family and friends during this holiday season and the rate of infection is expected to increase rapidly and by large numbers.

Towards that end, to help mitigate the spread of infection, upon our return to school on January 3, 2022, ***all Woodbury City Public Schools will be on a one-session day schedule from Monday January 3<sup>rd</sup> through Friday January 7<sup>th</sup>.***

This means students will not be eating lunch at school from Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> -Jan 7<sup>th</sup>, but will receive "to go" lunches at dismissal along with breakfast for the next day. We are asking that breakfast be eaten at home before arrival.

It is with an overabundance of caution and care that we are making a decision that we feel is in the best interest of the school community and has a lesser impact on teaching and learning. If there are any changes or updates to the plan, we will inform you immediately. In addition, we are sending students home with their laptops as an opportunity to continually work on any prescriptive programs we use (i.e., i-Ready, Khan Academy.) This will also allow us to be prepared for any changes mandated by the New Jersey Department of Education.

The schedule for elementary, junior high and high school students is as follows:

- Elementary 8:30 am -12:45 pm
- Junior/Senior High 7:45- 12:40pm

Thank you for your time and attention in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to at [board@woodburysch.com](mailto:board@woodburysch.com)

Thank you,

  
Andrew T. Bell, Sr.  
Superintendent