

Newton Public Schools

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*Dr. G. Kennedy Greene
Superintendent*

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Interim Business Administrator*

November 14, 2020

Newton Public Schools Community:

The most recent information reported by the Sussex County and New Jersey Departments of Health (DOH) indicates that the number of positive cases of Covid-19 continues to rise. Not long ago, our Northwest Region moved from low risk (green) to moderate risk (yellow). We were informed yesterday that current data indicates our region is coming very close to moving from moderate to high risk (orange), a change that could occur in the near future. If this should happen, DOH protocols for handling positive, probable, and possible Covid-19 cases in schools become more stringent, as do the standards for contact tracing and quarantine. Such a scenario would create significant problems in trying to maintain a healthy environment for hybrid and in-person learning. Compounding this is the onset of the holiday season beginning with Thanksgiving, during which the likelihood of family gatherings with those outside of the home increases as well.

The New Jersey DOH recommends that school districts consider moving to fully remote learning in the event our regional status changes to high risk. If this occurs, we will probably have to pivot quickly to remote learning for all students in order to keep our school community safe. I understand the difficulty such a situation would cause to families and wanted you to be made aware in advance that taking such an action may become necessary. Decisions such as these are never made lightly.

Please know that the health and well-being of our students, staff, and the entire school community are of the utmost importance to us. I will continue to keep you informed as this situation develops and additional data becomes available.

Sincerely,



Dr. G. Kennedy Greene