

Weymouth Families,

This is our last Friday folder of 2020 as we head into winter break. As a reminder, there will be meal pickup on Wednesday, December 30th and meal/material pickup on Wednesday, January 6th. Masks must be worn when picking up food and materials. Please see the attached for a letter from our Principal and Superintendent Mary Lou DeFrancisco as well as updated Covid information.

Have a wonderful, happy, and healthy holiday!



# Weymouth Township School District



From our  
Weymouth Township  
School Family

To your Family we wish you good  
health during our  
Winter Break and this Winter Season

We hope this flyer finds you and your families healthy and managing as the pandemic continues to impact our educational and personal lives. We want to thank you for all of your help and also reiterate some district information as we begin our Winter Break.

My gratitude to our faculty, administrator/supervisors, and support staff for the dedicated service provided since school opened in September. Thanks to all of you, we are proud to offer both remote and hybrid instruction to students as we work to provide and support the varying needs and preferences of our families. While there have been and continue to be challenging moments, we have persevered and hopefully learned new lessons during this very difficult time.

While our region and entire State is in the High Risk or “Orange” level, we have carefully reviewed the guidance provided for each level and are meeting the requirements for in-person, hybrid, and remote instructional programs.

In the high/orange risk level, we are required to treat someone who has COVID-like symptoms the same as someone who tests positive.

- Because of this requirement, there is additional contact tracing required to be done by the Dept. of Health that has more staff and students excluded from school (quarantined).
- As you can imagine, this requirement creates a greater need for substitutes, particularly for teachers; extensive work by our nurse which includes evenings and weekends; creates situations regarding in-person learning that must be managed; places hybrid students in totally virtual situations; and overall, places ever increasing pressure on the entire school system.

Based on an assessment of the current situation and after consultation with the Atlantic County Departments of Education and Health, the following steps have/are being taken.

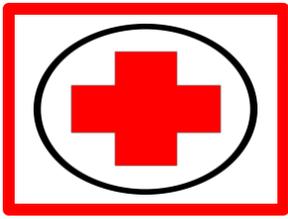
- Currently all students are being instructed remotely.
- In-Person instruction will TENTATIVELY begin again Monday, January 11, 2021.
  - Please note that returning to our in-person program is based on our region not moving into the Very High/Red status (guidance recommends all virtual at this level) and not having a situation in the High/Orange Risk level that does not allow us to properly manage in-person learning (i.e. too many excluded staff members and not enough substitutes).
  - Should the need arise, the all virtual learning status will be extended.

I realize that these transitions will displease some and will be applauded by others. The decision is made after much consideration and is the most difficult one to make. Know that I am a strong advocate for in-person learning and the benefits it provides children academically and in terms of mental health and overall well-being. However, the decision made is based on the data we are provided.

Thank you for all you continue to do at this most difficult and stress filled time. We wish you good health.

Take care. Be well.

Mary Lou DeFrancisco, Interim Superintendent/Principal



## Weymouth Township School District

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December 22, 2020

Dear Parent(s) & Community:

As we continue our efforts to keep all of our students, staff, and families as safe as possible, at times there seems to be confusion as to what we are allowed to disclose. In our constant effort to remain transparent, please review the following information. The District is coordinating closely with public health officials and following CDC, state, and local health department guidance in order to assure the health and safety of our community. Please note that, due to HIPPA and school law/policies, we are not permitted to disclose any personal identifying information.

Families of any student(s) that may have come into contact with someone 'presumed' positive, in any setting, are notified as soon as we are made aware of the situation. If your child is considered as having a possible close contact (based on the definition of 'within six feet of a person who is infected with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more within a 24-hour period), you would receive notification from a school official and possibly the Atlantic County Health Department. No further action is required if you do not receive such notification.

Cleaning and disinfecting of all exposed areas is being completed. The school is also taking precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of viruses and other germs and is cleaning frequently touched surfaces daily. The status of this situation is fluid and we monitor it closely.

We understand the level of concern regarding COVID-19. We encourage parents and students to continue following the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention promoted safeguards, such as:

- ✓ Staying home when you are sick;
- ✓ Washing hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds;
- ✓ Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues and masks;
- ✓ Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks, and utensils;
- ✓ Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
- ✓ Wearing a face covering while in school and/or any public area; and
- ✓ Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms.

As always, we appreciate our community's support and cooperation. You can assist by remaining vigilant in your approach to dealing with this health concern. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us. Below are resources you may find helpful.

NJDOH COVID-19 Information for Communities and the General Public: [https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019\\_community.shtml](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml)

Get the Facts about Coronavirus: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Symptoms of COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Testing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/index.html>; <https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing>

How to Protect Yourself: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

What To Do If You Are Sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

Thank you for your anticipated understanding.

*Mary Lou DeFrancisco*  
Interim Superintendent/Principal