



**WASHINGTON  
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November 17, 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The most recent information reported by the Warren County and New Jersey Departments of Health (DOH) indicates the number of positive cases of Covid-19 continues to rise. Recently, the Northwest Region moved from low risk (green) to moderate risk (yellow) of Covid-19 community spread. On Friday, the Department of Health informed us that current data indicates our region is coming close to moving from moderate to high risk (orange) of community spread, a change that could occur in the near future. If this should happen, Department of Health protocols for handling positive, probable, and possible Covid-19 cases in schools will become more stringent, as do the standards for contact tracing and quarantine. For example, if an individual presents with any COVID-19 symptoms, this individual will be required to quarantine. Additionally, any close contact of that symptomatic individual will need to quarantine (students and staff). The primary change is that no positive COVID test result is required for this action to be taken. These changes in protocols will create significant challenges in trying to maintain a healthy environment for in-person learning. Again, changes include quarantining students and staff that are close contacts of individuals with Covid-19 symptoms (not just positive Covid-19 symptoms).

The New Jersey Department of Health recommends school districts consider moving to fully remote learning in the event our regional status changes to high risk (orange). If this occurs, we may 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 that taking such an action may become necessary, in advance. Decisions such as these are never made lightly and are in consultation with the Department of Health.

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,

Keith Neuhs  
Superintendent