



PHASED REOPENING UPDATE

November 12, 2020

Dear Hampton Families,

I am writing to you today to provide an update regarding our Phased Reopening plan that we implemented on October 19. Additionally, I want to alert you to an important pause to our Phased Reopening plan for Hampton High School and Hampton Middle School that was scheduled to be initiated next week.

To date, our modified hybrid phased reopening plan has allowed for successful in-person instruction for all elementary students, 6th graders, and 9th graders. These students are completing several weeks of additional in-person instruction in which they have been attending school four days per week. Overall, this has been a very positive experience for our students. We are seeing significant progress being made from educational and social and emotional perspectives.

While we have experienced a handful of positive COVID-19 cases in our schools, students who have been required to quarantine have not tested positive. They have safely returned to school following virtual educational support during the quarantine period. Furthermore, following investigations of these events in consultation with the ACHD team, we have determined these cases have been entirely unrelated, with no evidence of school spread.

Despite our successful experience with our phased reopening, an update today from the Allegheny County Health Department results in a necessary readjustment to some of our Phased Reopening plans. During today's call, the health department shared that the spread of COVID-19 among adults in Allegheny County is at level much higher than previously noted and is a serious public health concern. Additionally, the Allegheny County incidence rate is expected to exceed 100 per 100,000 individuals and the positivity rate is expected to reach 5% or higher. This specific data will be published tomorrow on the COVID-19 Early Warning System Dashboard that we have referenced previously.

While Dr. Bogen and her team have reassured us that notable virus spread is not occurring in Allegheny County schools, **we have determined that a pause in our Phased reopening plan is warranted.** We are making this decision out of an abundance of caution. We recognize the notable increasing spread among adults in our region could impact Hampton families and children.

By pausing our plans to bring 10th, 11th, and 12th grade, and 7th and 8th grade back into their respective buildings for additional in-person instruction, we will maintain the social distancing we currently have in place within those schools. Also, these buildings have the largest numbers of adults and students in our district, and we believe that a pause in adding a substantial number of additional students to these buildings is necessary.

At this time, all other aspects of our current modified hybrid program will remain in effect unless public health concern warrants additional changes. The expanded reopening phase initially planned for next week will be paused until January 4, 2021. Over the next several weeks we will examine the modified hybrid plan at the Middle and High Schools and consider how we might provide equitable opportunities for additional in-person instruction while maintaining limited daily enrollment.



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I recognize that this is an unanticipated adjustment. Please know we have made this decision after considerable discussion and consultation with the Allegheny County Health Department. I appreciate your patience and understanding as we strive to make careful decisions regarding our students, staff, and families' health and safety.

I look forward to updating you with additional pertinent information as it becomes available regarding our Phased Reopening plans.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Loughead

Superintendent
Hampton Township school District