

# Union Township School Corporation

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*"Every Student, Every Day"*

November 16, 2020

Dear Union Township Schools families and colleagues:

We have continued to closely monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our community, and we are noticing a number of concerning trends. The number of cases and the positivity rate in Porter County have been on the rise in recent weeks. Porter County is currently labeled as "orange," but we are anticipating a change to "red" this week as our numbers are now surpassing those in neighboring counties. You can use the daily dashboard [link](#) to see the active cases both in and out of our schools. An increasing number of our staff members are required to quarantine due to exposure to the virus or have tested positive. With this, we are becoming increasingly concerned with our ability to safely staff our in-person learning throughout the district. In the last two weeks we have been short thirty substitutes. Our administrative team has met frequently to discuss how to best continue to provide a high-quality educational program while keeping our students and staff safe and healthy.

Following our discussions, we have decided to suspend in-person learning with students learning from home beginning **Wednesday, November 18**. We will continue to closely monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our county and how this affects our students and staff. We will reassess the numbers and provide families with further direction on December 2 with the hope that we can return to in-person learning on **Monday, December 7**. Because the rate of transmission in our students is low, we will allow students in grades 6 through 12 to participate in extracurricular activities with increased safety measures to include only parents as spectators at events.

We hope that by providing early notification that we are allowing families the necessary time to make provisions to find adequate supervision for their children. Our remote food service program will continue. Families who have not been participating in the free remote program but are interested in participating in this program should visit [THIS](#) link to sign up. For elementary students, Kidstop will offer their extended all day, childwatch program at one of our neighboring Boys and Girls Clubs. The elementary Principals will share more information with you as they become aware of the details.

Returning to in-person learning will take the efforts of the entire Union Township community. Our school community must continue to practice social distancing, wear face masks, and frequently wash and sanitize our hands. The approaching holiday season will pose challenges as families gather for celebrations, college students return home, and families travel to visit friends and family. Please remember that we must be vigilant in protecting ourselves and our families from exposure to COVID-19.

## **Board of Trustees**

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I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding as we protect the health and safety of our students and staff. You will be receiving important information from your child's school soon regarding the specifics of learning from home. Remember that our return to in-person learning will take the efforts of everyone in our school community, and we hope that we can decrease the rate of transmission and allow our students to return to their schools very soon.

Sincerely,

John Hunter  
Superintendent