

Dear Families and Friends,

I want to thank our families and staff for your continued diligence in promoting a safe learning environment for our students, who continue to follow school guidelines and make the best of the current situation.

In the past several days, school and health officials in our region have discussed whether to transition to a full-remote learning model after the Thanksgiving holiday. **I am writing today to share with you that Woodstock, as a precaution, plans to observe a week of full-remote learning from Monday, November 30, through Friday, December 4.**

Meals will continue to be available for all families on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at WMS.

The reasons for this precautionary transition are as follows:

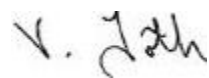
There is a general concern among education and health officials in our region that the Thanksgiving holiday may result in an increase in COVID-19 transmission within our school communities. Preemptively transitioning to a full-remote learning model for the week of November 30 through December 4 will allow us time to see whether COVID-19 transmission is increasing in our community and, if so, not require our schools to send out emergency notification of next-day learning model changes causing further disruption to our staff, students, and families.

There is no denying that we are experiencing significant COVID-19 transmission increases in Windham County; since November 16, there have been 107 new cases in the county. On November 17, the Northeast District Department of Health sent a message to districts stressing that the increased COVID-19 concerns in our area may impact a district's ability to remain open for in-person learning. Thus far, we have been able to stay in our hybrid model; however, it is becoming more apparent that our ability to maintain adequate staffing levels is becoming increasingly difficult.

As a precaution, families should start planning for the possibility of a shift to a full-remote learning model for a more extended period. We will continue to monitor our metrics and consider other factors that will influence our ability to remain in a hybrid learning model.

The Board of Education is tentatively scheduled to meet on December 1 to further discuss and reassess the situation. Please check the district's website - www.woodstockschools.net - for more information the week of November 30.

Be well and stay safe,



Viktor Toth
Superintendent of Schools