January 21, 2021

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. We have experienced a sudden increase of positive cases in both the high school and our middle school. Our administrative team has met to review these numbers and develop a plan that would best keep our students and staff safe as we navigate through these cases and the large number of students who have been identified as close contacts.

Following our discussions, we have decided to suspend in-person learning for **BOTH** Wheeler High School and Union Township Middle School with students participating in virtual learning from home beginning **Friday, January 22nd**. We will plan to return back to our current in-person instruction platform on Monday, February 1st. Please note that we will reassess the numbers and provide families with further direction on Thursday, January 28th with the hope that the increase of cases has subsided and we are still on schedule for return **Monday, February 1st**.

Due to the fact that this recent outbreak appears to have begun through extra curricular school activities, as well as, so many student athletes identified as close contacts, we will be making the following adjustments to our athletic and extracurricular schedules.

1. ***All Middle and High School athletics and extracurricular activities will end beginning 2:45 pm. Thursday, January 21st and open back up on Saturday, January 30th, 2021.***

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. Please remember that we must be vigilant in protecting ourselves and our families from exposure to COVID-19.

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**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16Mpfje2xB2KSwM9rfBTSfx1roxnl15Rab3KioX66yYk/edit) link to sign up.

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