

Westampton Township Public Schools

Office of the Superintendent

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Good afternoon Westampton Schools family,

It has been another challenging few weeks preparing for a “hybrid” opening of school. I want to thank everyone in the community for answering the survey in a timely manner, for reaching out to their school offices with questions, and for all of your patience and support. The community has been remarkably understanding and incredibly resilient. It has become clear that, when we act in the best interest of children, staff, and the community, everyone is eager to work together.

About 58% of our families have opted to stay fully remote for the second marking period. For those that are staying remote, we are committed to ensuring that the quality of instruction remains as high as possible. For those that are coming into the hybrid “in-person” schedule, we are committed to keeping the school environment as safe as we can for our students, our staff, and the community at large. To help us accomplish these goals, I wanted to remind you of a few things:

1. One of the questions on the Daily Health Parent Form (that must be filled out every day your child is coming to school “in-person”) relates to travel to states on the NJ Travel Advisory list. As we enter into two, four-day weekends in the next four weeks, please be aware of these travel restrictions. The list of states can be found [here](#). The State of New Jersey advises anyone traveling from these states to quarantine for 14 days upon return to New Jersey to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. We ask for your compliance with this advisory as we try our best to minimize the chance of transmission of the virus in our schools. Keep in mind that, in the hybrid model, a 14-day quarantine would only amount to 2 to 4 days of in-person school and that any quarantined student would be able to fully participate remotely.
2. Please revisit information sent to you from your individual schools regarding schedules. Both hybrid and remote instructional day schedules may have changed as we move to in person learning.
3. Please help us enforce the mask requirements. Masks must be worn AT ALL TIMES. They are required on the school bus and at all times during the school day. Also, “gaiters” and masks with ventilation or breathing valve are not permitted.

4. To ensure clear expectations and communication, please note that the following procedures will apply regarding student health concerns in school:
 - a. If a student is sent home from school because they feel ill or exhibit concerning symptoms, the parent/guardian of that student will be contacted on what needs to occur to return to school
 - b. If a student tests positive for COVID-19, and has been in school, all parents/guardians in THAT SCHOOL will be notified.
 - c. If a student tests positive for COVID-19 and your child is identified as being in “close contact” with them, you will be notified by the school and by the Burlington County Board of Health with additional information.
 - d. If a grade level or school needs to be shut down for a period of time (as RVRHS just was), the entire district will be notified.

We have had many questions regarding the decision to try to open and what may happen in the near future. With cases rising throughout the county and state, Rancocas Valley High School having to go fully remote for 2 weeks as directed by the Department of Health, and other concerns about the spread of the virus, we are watching everything very closely. We stay in close contact with the Burlington County Department of Health, get regular reports from the State Department of Health, and listen closely to our community’s concerns. We are on schedule to open to the 4 cohort model on November 9th and to go to 2 cohorts on November 30. However, the situation changes day to day and we are committed to making every decision based on the health and safety of our students, staff, and community.

Wishing you a healthy, safe, and enjoyable weekend.

Anthony Petruzzelli
Superintendent