



Nutley Public Schools

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November 25, 2020

Dear Staff and Families,

As we return to virtual instruction on Monday, November 30, 2020, it remains imperative to complete the daily electronic screening form in Real Time each morning by 9:00 AM. This helps the district and township track trends of COVID-19 and monitor the spread so that we can appropriately plan for a safe return to in-person learning in the new year.

Based on a review of the COVID-19 Weekly Activity Report for the week ending November 14, 2020 the vast majority of the state have a COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) Score of 3 moving the activity level of our region to high and the statewide activity level to high. Since November 6, the township has realized more than 100 new positive cases of COVID-19, and our current district numbers identify both staff and students in our virtual and hybrid in-person population currently testing positive or having to quarantine due to being a close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19.

As the holiday season is upon us so is the risk for large family gatherings, leniency of social distancing and wearing of masks which may lead to a potentially higher COVID-19 activity level.

For schools to re-open for in-person learning we must:

- Continue to follow COVID-19 exclusion criteria for staff or students who are COVID-19 positive or who have COVID-19 compatible symptoms and are not yet tested.
- Continue to have the Local Health Department and schools work together to identify and exclude close contacts according to CDC guidance, including close contacts of someone with COVID-19 compatible symptoms who are not yet tested.
- Have data to make decisions on when an ill person's close contacts can return to school dependent on the ill person's medical evaluation and COVID-19 test results.
- Restrict activities that involve interaction with multiple cohorts.

The Board of Education will be discussing the safe return to in-person instruction at the December 21, 2020 public meeting. This discussion will be informed by consultation with the Nutley Health Department and based on current NJDOH guidance.

Thank you for your due diligence in completing the daily electronic screening tool. In addition, please remember that masks, social distancing, thorough hand washing and staying home when you are sick continue to be critical to fighting COVID-19, and other illnesses.

I hope that each and every one of you is able to find some ways to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Although our holidays this year may look different, I do hope you are able to share time with loved ones in small, safe groups. I am including, [here](#), some guidance from New Jersey's COVID-19 website about safe ways to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,