



**TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS**  
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To our Toms River Regional Schools families and staff:

As you know, last week we moved the entire district to a full-remote learning model with an intended return date of Monday, December 14. After spending last week, the four-day weekend, and this Monday morning carefully analyzing hundreds of COVID-related quarantines and district-wide staffing, **we have revised the date of a safe return to in-person learning for all schools to Monday, December 7.**

The [COVID-19 Activity Level Report](#) currently lists our area as **High Risk**. This designation requests consideration of an all-remote learning environment, and it was our determination last week that going all-remote would help ensure the safety of our community in the context of an upward trend in positive cases. We believe our cautious approach was the right one, placing us in a stronger position to re-implement hybrid, in-person learning. If, however, our “Central East” area moves to the **Very High Risk** designation, we may likely be required to transition back to remote learning district-wide.

We know that one size does not fit all, especially when we consider our school district's size and complexity. Please, therefore, be aware of the possibility that a particular school or grade level may need to move to remote instruction due to the transmission of COVID-19 within a building or class. As always, this decision will be made in conjunction with the local health department and our district medical team.

Lastly, we recognize how challenging of a time this is for our entire school community. Our current Mental Health & Resiliency and Social & Emotional Learning Committees have been working tirelessly to provide support to our teachers and students through integrated curriculum resources that take shape in daily and weekly lessons. However, in an effort to provide more targeted and meaningful assistance to students and families, we will be forming the **TRRS Mental Health Taskforce**, composed of staff, district and community mental health professionals, administrators, and most importantly, students. The main priorities of this group will be to gather information about what types of supports are needed and to connect students and families with a network through a district-initiated platform. As we work to implement this platform, we encourage any of our families who think their children may be in need of such services to contact their school.

As I stated in my Thanksgiving communication to our community, closing schools is never an easy decision, and it is our firm belief that our students need the academic and social-emotional support in-person learning provides. We are therefore happy to reopen earlier than planned, but do so with extreme care and caution. Rest assured we are constantly evaluating the situation and will continue to consult with local and state health officials on the ever-changing information and data related to COVID-19 to ensure the safety of nearly 17,000 individuals who attend and work for our school district. To this end, we have and will continue to put the safety and well-being of our students and staff first.

Sincerely,

David M. Healy  
Superintendent of Schools