



TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS

DAVID M. HEALY

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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To our Toms River Regional Schools staff and families:

As you know from my prior communications, it's been our intention and the goal of our schools to remain open, especially after having successfully completed our #TRSafeReturn. However, we've been advised and urged by the Ocean County Health Department (OCHD), in the interest of public health and with consideration for the rising number of COVID-19 cases within Toms River and the surrounding Ocean County community, to temporarily but immediately close our schools.

In response, all district schools will return to an all-virtual format effective tomorrow, Tuesday, November 24, 2020. It is our plan to reopen schools for blended learning on Monday, December 14; however, that is of course dependent on a downward trend in the number of local positive cases and additional guidance and/or directives from OCHD. This transition to fully virtual includes TRRS students enrolled in Ocean County Vocational programs. It is anticipated that OCVTS academy students will return to in-person learning Dec. 8.

I want to reiterate that this was not a course of action we wanted to take, and I also want to reassure all of you that this decision is being made despite our relentless, collective efforts to adhere to protocols and thus ensure the safety of our students and staff. This is not an indictment of those efforts; in fact, all reports and data suggest that our schools have done an extraordinary job of preventing outbreaks, a sentiment recently echoed by OCHD. Unfortunately, this is a necessary response to a much broader problem, as the status of our area has progressed to "high risk."

During this time of fully virtual learning, we urge our parents and families to remain in contact with their schools, and to ***continue to notify building principals of any positive cases***. This information is integral toward our planning for the immediate future, as well as the continued safety of our students and staff.

Though not a desired outcome, we've always been prepared for this. Our enhanced virtual learning platform proved to be a remarkable success to begin the year, and it will now continue to meet the academic goals we've set for the 2020-2021 school year. As always, I sincerely thank you for your patience, kindness, and fortitude during this challenging time, and I wish that you all remain safe and healthy throughout these upcoming weeks and months.

Sincerely,

David M. Healy
Superintendent of Schools