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February 22, 2021

Dear Cherry Hill Families,

As was shared in the weekly e-postcard on Friday, February 19, 2021, we are launching a survey today to gauge the interest in students returning to school for 4 days per week – Tuesday through Friday. The **tentative** start date is March 9, 2021. Please review the [accompanying document](#) detailing items to consider regarding the transition. Then log in to the [Genesis Parent Portal](#) to complete the survey. You will be asked to indicate your choice of 2 days in school, 4 days in school, or full remote for each of your children. The survey will be open through Saturday, February 27, 2021.

The decision to move forward with this **tentative** plan was influenced by:

- the continued opportunity for full remote instruction for families who choose it.
- the Southwest Region of New Jersey, including Camden County, moving back to the “Yellow/Moderate Risk” category for the past two weeks (see page 2).
- our continued monitoring of COVID-19 positive cases in our District.
- the absence of high/moderate levels of linked transmission occurring in our schools.
- the absence of rapidly accelerating community transmission.

The **tentative** plan can and will be impacted if these factors change.

The health and safety of our students and staff remains the District’s top priority. We will continue to monitor the public health situation. I meet each week, along with the other Superintendents in Camden County, with Dr. Nwako, the Camden County Health Officer/Public Health Coordinator, to gain insight into the status of the community spread of COVID-19. We have invited a team from the Camden County Department of Health to visit our District to see our preparation for increasing the number of students in classrooms. We will share any guidance from the Department of Health, after we receive it.

Cherry Hill, just like every community, has the potential to experience a surge in positive COVID-19 cases. We will continue to review the county-wide numbers and their impact will continue to be reviewed each week. Positive COVID-19 cases in our schools will require contact tracing and subsequent quarantining. Families will be notified directly if their child is a close contact.

Please continue to stay abreast of COVID-19 related updates on our [website](#) and our social media ([Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)) platforms. If you have specific questions about your child’s experiences, please contact the building principal. Continue to stay safe.

Regards,

Joe Meloche
Superintendent

Southwest Region of New Jersey COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI)

Week Ending	Case Rate	Percent CLI	Percent Positivity	CALI Score
8/29/2020	4.12	1.45	2.58	1
9/5/2020	4.81	1.41	3.27	2
9/12/2020	4.64	1.31	3.18	2
9/19/2020	5.18	1.21	2.82	1
9/26/2020	4.99	1.51	2.95	1
10/3/2020	5.93	1.90	2.94	2
10/10/2020	7.40	2.17	3.50	2
10/17/2020	9.64	2.10	3.69	2
10/24/2020	10.42	2.47	4.40	2
10/31/2020	14.88	2.84	5.56	2
11/7/2020	22.70	3.96	7.44	2
11/14/2020	38.63	5.52	9.95	3
11/21/2020	47.25	7.00	10.51	3
11/28/2020	42.93	7.18	11.50	3
12/5/2020	57.37	8.03	14.06	3
12/12/2020	50.44	7.67	12.1	3
12/19/2020	44.30	7.43	13.52	3
12/26/2020	39.78	7.04	12.76	3
1/2/2021	42.78	7.12	14.60	3
1/9/2021	62.20	6.80	13.08	3
1/16/2021	42.70	6.36	10.39	3
1/23/2021	46.58	6.40	10.65	3
1/30/21	31.32	4.58	8.30	3
2/06/21	22.02	4.36	7.2	2
2/13/21	17.66	3.32	6.33	2

Source: New Jersey Department of Health

Case rate (per 100,000) is calculated as a proportion of the population — specifically, daily new COVID cases for every 100,000 people. Real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) results for COVID-19 are obtained from electronic laboratory transmission submitted by acute care, commercial and public health laboratories to CDRSS. Case rate is monitored as a 7-day average by the first positive specimen collection date – this is the date a patient’s specimen is collected. Should a patient have more than one positive specimen, only the first one is included.

COVID-like illness (CLI) is defined as fever and cough or dyspnea (shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, etc.) or the presence of coronavirus diagnosis codes. With the intention to focus on CLI rather than Influenza-like illness the diagnosis of another specified respiratory pathogen (influenza, parainfluenza and RSV) is excluded. Percent daily visits associated with CLI from emergency department data is collected via EpiCenter (i.e. NJDOH syndromic surveillance). CLI is monitored as a 7-day weekly average.

Percent positivity is the percentage of total positive COVID-19 PCR tests out of all COVID-19 PCR tests performed. Percent positivity is monitored as a 7-day average.

The **COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) Score** is calculated as described below: a. In each region, each indicator is assigned a value based on the activity range it falls into. Activity thresholds and values for each indicator are defined in Table 1 below. b. Next, the values are averaged together. This rounded average gives the CALI Score which corresponds to the final activity level (Table 2). c. The statewide activity level is calculated by averaging the CALI Scores for the 6 regions.

Weekly reports are available on the [NJ Department of Health website](#).