

ELMWOOD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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ANTHONY IACHETTI
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

JOHN DIPAOLO
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/
BOARD SECRETARY

January 7, 2021

Dear Elmwood Park Families:

I hope you all had a good restful and healthy break. Please be advised after consulting with the Bergen County Department of Health (BCDOH), and adhering to the latest CDC and New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) guidelines the district has modified our initial plans for reopening.

Please be advised that **Monday, January 11, 2021 will be a Remote Day for all students.**

Starting on **Tuesday, January 12, 2021, students will resume hybrid instruction.**

Please refer to the district calendar on the website and the below schedule for the week of January 11-15, 2021. Also, please be reminded that the district will observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 18, 2021.

January 2021							February 2021						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2		A/PL	A	R	B	B	6
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	A	A	R	B	12	13
10	R	A	R	B	B	16	14	15	16	17	A	B	20
17	18	A	R	B	B	23	21	A	A	R	B	B	27
24	A	A	R	B	B	30	28						

Parent conferences for elementary parents will be held the week of January 19-22, 2021. Further correspondence will be disseminated by the building principals.

Full Remote Learning Option

As of July 20, 2020, Governor Murphy announced that the NJ Department of Education will allow parents to choose an "All Remote Learning Option" for their children. The Elmwood Park School District will continue to support the choices of all guardians to send their children for in-person instruction or to elect for total virtual learning. In order to facilitate all requests across the district, the administration has outlined a process to maintain social distancing and safety guidelines within every facility, and to ensure all students have full access to remote learning. **Please see the letter outlining the directions for requesting total remote learning or a return to in-person instruction on our district website.**

Cohort Scheduling

The district will continue to follow the half day, hybrid in-person instructional model. Students will remain in their designated cohort, and will attend school on alternating days. Each cohort will have two days of in-person instruction and three days of remote instruction each week.

Please be reminded that this is a challenging task to ensure classes are balanced to meet social distancing requirements. Every attempt will be made to have siblings/same household children placed in the same cohort. The below schedule will be reinstated beginning on Monday, January 25, 2021.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
A	A	R	B	B

- **Cohort A:** Students assigned to Cohort A will attend **in-person classes on Mondays and Tuesdays** and participate in remote instruction on Thursdays and Fridays.
- **Cohort B:** Students assigned to Cohort B will attend **in-person classes on Thursdays and Fridays** and participate in remote instruction on Mondays and Tuesdays.
- All Students: On **Wednesdays, all students will participate in remote instruction.** This remote instruction will allow for teachers and students to engage in synchronous learning activities, and provide the district an opportunity to clean all buildings.

Dismissal Times

In-person instruction days will follow an early dismissal schedule:

Elementary Schools: 1:00 p.m. / Middle School and High School: 12:18 p.m.

Meals Distribution

Grab and go meals will continue to be available for pick up at Memorial High School for all students, including remote learners on Tuesdays and Thursdays through January 22, 2021. **Please note the meals will only be available for pick up at Memorial High School, not at each school building.** Additional information will be sent out in the near future regarding meal distribution starting the week of January 25, 2021.

Weekly Attestation Form

Parents/ guardians are to complete the Attestation Form found in the **Parent Portal**, every day. Failure to complete the form by **6:30 a.m. each morning** will prohibit a student from participating in school for the day. The attestation form is to be completed for all students, including those who have chosen full remote instruction.

NJDOH/CDC Updates

Risk Matrix

Due to the regional, county, High Risk Status (“Orange”), the NJDOH has mandated that the quarantine period is 14 days. Should the COVID-19 numbers continue to increase and our local region is designated as Very High Risk (“Red”) by the NJDOH/ BCDOH area, the district will be mandated to transition into a total remote setting.

Symptomatic Household Members and Students

Bergen County Department of Health (BCDOH) has instituted ONE (1) COVID-19 related symptom for exclusion and mandated health care provider follow up.

If a member of a household is currently demonstrating any ONE (1) symptom of COVID-19, the entire family living in that domicile residence are required to quarantine. This includes parents, siblings, or any other person residing within your home. Negative COVID-19 test results must be provided to the district for any household member that has a positive COVID-19 result.

The attestation form will now include a question regarding household members who are symptomatic.

Students experiencing a COVID-19 related symptom are required to be sent to a healthcare provider for a COVID-19 test, and must produce a negative test result to return to school.

Close contacts will be determined and excluded the same day. The individual with the COVID-19 related symptom must produce a negative COVID-19 test result and must be 24-hours symptom free in order to return to school. Please be advised as per the CDC masks and barriers do not rule out close contact status.

As per the updated NJDOH/BCDOH, should a student come to school and is confirmed by a nursing staff member to have one of the COVID-19 symptoms, all individuals who are deemed to be in close contact will be required to quarantine until the symptomatic student produces a negative COVID-19 test. The same requirements are in place for symptomatic household members.

NJDOH and BCDOH Guidelines applies to all school sports.

Mandated Testing

NJDOH no longer indicates "alternative diagnosis" from a doctor as an alternative for returning to school. A COVID-19 negative test is required.

NJDOH/ BCDOH recommends waiting 5-7 days to have a test administered after exposure.

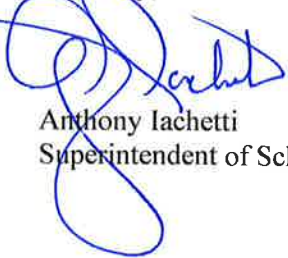
If a student experiencing a COVID-19 related symptom does not provide a COVID-19 negative test, all close contacts will not be allowed to return to school for the minimum 14-day quarantine period.

Travel Advisory

Please be advised out of tri-state area travel quarantine time has been updated to 10 days by NJ state for travel to any location other than the following states: New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Connecticut.

Please know that our main priority has been, and will continue to be embedded in providing a safe learning environment for our students and staff. Thank you for your continued cooperation and anticipated support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anthony Iachetti", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Anthony Iachetti
Superintendent of Schools