



Livingston

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Matthew J. Block
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Livingston Public Schools Community:

Thank you to all of our families for their flexibility in allowing the district to have today to assess our current situation, prepare for our students' return to school, and make some adjustments to safety protocols and school logistics. We are excited to welcome our students back to school tomorrow. Please see the important information below:

- We are opening schools for in-person instruction tomorrow, January 4th. Nonetheless, we also know that some staff members have recently tested positive for Covid-19, and some may test positive in the days to come. We will be monitoring staff attendance on a day-to-day basis to ensure we are able to provide food service, transportation, and instruction for our students.
- Please be prepared that we may need to adjust as circumstances evolve. Students should bring their school-issued devices home daily, in case there is a need to transition to remote learning.
- Our physician advisors and the Livingston Department of Health are now recommending surgical masks, KN95 masks, or double masks be worn in school. Students and staff are strongly encouraged to follow this recommendation.
- If your child has been vaccinated, please upload his or her vaccination record to the Genesis Portal. This is extremely helpful to our nurses as they contact trace.
- Zoom links will be provided for students who are in a school-approved quarantine in an expeditious manner. Teachers are prepared to provide these links as students are quarantined.
- Today provided us with an opportunity to reassess our spacing plans for student lunches. Plans are in place to maximize spacing as much as possible during lunch at each school. At some buildings, additional supervised spaces will be opened in order to further spread students out during this time. Whenever possible, students will have the ability to spend some time outside. Please send your child to school with weather-appropriate outerwear.
- The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) has not adopted the new Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines for schools at this time. The NJDOH has specifically informed school districts not to adjust from a ten day quarantine period to a five day quarantine period. Therefore, our nurses will continue to communicate a ten day quarantine for positive individuals as they are required to follow [NJDOH Guidance](#).

Livingston Public Schools: Empowering all to learn, create, contribute and grow.

- We have offered on-site district Covid testing every Tuesday since the beginning of the school year. We are working on expanding testing to multiple days per week. We will notify the community as soon as an expanded testing schedule has been established. In the meantime, Sears at Livingston Mall and K-Mart in West Orange are Essex County Testing Sites that can handle a large number of people.
- We will be holding as many extracurricular activities as possible, including club meetings, virtually until the spread of Covid subsides. Each advisor will keep his or her club informed about meeting logistics. Music concerts scheduled for January will be postponed until later this month. Athletics are governed by the NJSIAA, and will take place per their recommendations. Only two parents or guardians per athlete will be allowed to attend athletic events as spectators for events held on site. We will comply with all policies provided by off-site venues.

Although numbers of cases are up across the region, we have observed over the past two years, and healthcare professionals confirm, that schools tend to have less transmission and spread of illness than the communities in which they exist. We will continue to focus on all of our mitigation protocols such as masking, cleaning, and ventilation. We are told that, in a matter of weeks, the situation will improve, and we will hopefully be able to go back to more normalcy.

Thank you for your continued understanding, patience and flexibility.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew J. Block", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Matthew J. Block, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools