

November 13, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

According to the data provided by the New Jersey Department of Health, the cases of COVID-19 are increasing rapidly in Warren County and the Northwest Region. While this week's COVID-19 Regional Activity level is still at "Moderate Risk," we have been informed by the Board of Health that we should anticipate reaching the "High Risk" level in the next week or two.

What does this mean for us here at Blairstown Elementary School?

We must prepare to take the following actions in consultation with the Warren County Health Department:

1. Consider implementing fully remote learning for all students
2. Restrict activities that involve interaction with multiple cohorts (mostly sports or after school activities)
3. If in-person learning continues, implement enhanced contact tracing and exclusion of close contacts of students and staff who have COVID-19 comparable symptoms, even if not yet tested. This would include students and staff who call in sick.

Some districts have already decided to move to remote instruction for all students for the two weeks after the Thanksgiving break. I recommend that families consider their child care arrangements should Blairstown Elementary School have to change to an all remote instructional plan for the two weeks following Thanksgiving. At this time, BES **will remain open** with our blue/gold cohort schedule.

Updated risk level will be published by the Health Department next Thursday which will help us determine any actions Blairstown Elementary may have to take. We will continue to utilize all of our social media products to keep you informed as well as our one call system.

It is our firm hope that we will not have to change our current program but will be guided by the latest data and directives of the NJDOE and the Health Department.

Mark Saalfield, Superintendent