



Our Children, Our School
Our Future

Netcong Elementary School

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Mrs. Kathleen E. Walsh
Superintendent

Dr. Kurt Ceresnak
Principal

November 18, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The most recent information reported by the New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) has indicated that the number of positive COVID-19 cases continues to rise quickly across the Northwest Region of the state. Current data suggests our region is very close to moving from “moderate” to “high” risk (orange), a change that can occur within the next week or two. Adding to this increase in positive cases is the start of the holiday season beginning with Thanksgiving, during which the likelihood of family gatherings with those outside of the home increases as well.

Following [NJDOH CPVID-19 Public Health Recommendation for LHDs for K-12 Schools](#), districts should prepare to take the following actions in consultation with our Health Department if we move to the “high risk” category:

- Consider implementing full remote learning. Parents should prepare for the possibility of needing increased childcare should schools have to quickly pivot to remote learning.
- Restrict activities that involve interactions with multiple cohorts of children.
- If in-person learning continues, implement enhanced contact tracing and exclusion of close contacts of students and staff who have COVID-19 symptoms **even if not yet tested**. This would include staff and students who call in sick.

As both a parent and an educator, I understand the difficulty that switching to full remote instruction might cause to families and wanted you to be aware that at some point taking such action may become necessary due to positive cases of COVID-19 in both the community and the school. Decisions like these are not taken lightly and are always made with the intention to protect the health and safety of the students, staff, and community members. I will continue to keep you apprised as this situation is fluid.

I wish you and your families good health during these difficult times. Stay safe and well.

Sincerely,

Kathleen E. Walsh
Superintendent