



POTTSGROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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November 13, 2020

Dear Pottsgrove Staff, Students, and Families:

Good afternoon. As mentioned in Wednesday's correspondence the Pennsylvania Department of Health moved Montgomery County into the "Substantial" category for COVID-19 positivity this past week.

Yesterday, the Montgomery County Superintendents were briefed about the rising incidence and positivity rates in our area from members of the Office of Public Health and the PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Though those rates in Pottsgrove schools have remained stable and the Health and Safety protocols that are in place have been working, it is the interactions outside of school that are contributing to the increased numbers in our community and surrounding areas.

Unfortunately, the increased volume throughout all of Montgomery County has impacted the speed with which contact tracing can be performed. And without accurate and timely contact tracing, the possibility of infected individuals not moving to quarantine or isolation hinders efforts to protect our population from the spread of the virus.

As such, we have been ordered by these experts to look ahead to the upcoming holiday, when it appears likely that families will gather, further increasing the risk of COVID-19 spread. As we consider these factors, we will follow the below schedule beginning November 23rd as part of the mitigation strategy. Please understand, these plans are subject to change at any time due to governmental orders or changing circumstances surrounding the pandemic. This order suspends all co-curricular activities and sports from November 23rd to December 6th. The following is an updated schedule through December 4th.

November 23, 24: PGSD Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences as scheduled.

November 25, 26, 27: All district buildings will be closed for the holiday break.

November 30 through December 4: All students will be in the virtual instruction platform.

A determination regarding the month of December will be made as we continue to monitor the situation with guidance from the Montgomery County Office of Public Health. The district will communicate any changes to our families as they arise.

I want to thank you for your flexibility, grace, and patience as we strive to balance the academic needs of our students and the health of our families and the larger community. Please remember to do your part by following all safety protocols to help stop the spread of this virus.

Sincerely,

William R. Shirk, Jr., Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools