



# HAWTHORNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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December 29, 2021

Dear Hawthorne Families,

Unfortunately, the number of positive COVID cases in Hawthorne and the state of New Jersey have continued to increase over the past few weeks. As per my letter on December 23rd, the most recent [NJ Department of Education Guidance Regarding School Closures](#) states that "*Districts must consult their local health department to determine if a closure is necessary due to COVID-19 outbreaks. Prior to closing any school building(s) due to COVID-19, LEAs must first consult with the local health department (LHD) to determine if building closure is the most appropriate response to the circumstances in a given school building.*"

On December 21, 2021, we did consult our Health Department to share our school numbers and the recommendation at that time was for our schools to remain open. As part of that conversation, we agreed to follow up this week to review updated COVID numbers in town and our schools. Due to the increase in positive COVID cases in our town, the increase in positive staff and students, and the challenges we face with substitutes, the Hawthorne Public Schools will transition to remote instruction beginning Monday, January 3, 2022, through Friday, January 7, 2022. This one-week transition to virtual instruction in Hawthorne was made in consultation with our local health department.

During this one-week closure, our facilities will be closed to the public, but our custodial and maintenance staff will continue to conduct thorough cleanings of our facilities. Our current plan is for all schools to return to in-person instruction on Monday, January 10, 2022. However, if we feel an additional week is needed, we will communicate that information with parents as soon as possible.

As we transition to remote instruction for the week of January 3rd, the school principals will provide student schedules and information about chromebook availability in the coming days.

## **Updated CDC Guidelines**

As most of you may have already seen, the CDC has recommended changes regarding quarantine time frames for those who test positive and who are close contacts, based on vaccination status. Please note that the district has and will continue to adhere to the guidance provided by the NJDOH. The District will await formal notification from the NJDOH as to whether they will adopt such changes for New Jersey schools. Until such time the District will abide by the guidelines that have been set forth prior to this CDC announcement. Any changes to our current guidelines will be communicated to parents and posted on our district website.

### Lunch Pickup Schedule

During this one week remote instruction period, please note the following schedule for lunch distribution:

- **Monday, January 3rd** - All students may pick up lunches for Monday and Tuesday at **Hawthorne High School** between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (Please use the Bamford Avenue entrance)
- **Wednesday, January 5th**, students may pick up lunches for Wednesday through Friday at **Hawthorne High School** between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (Please use the Bamford Avenue entrance)

We would also like to remind all families to please adhere to our [December 9, 2021, COVID Quarantine and Exclusion Update](#) and communicate if your child or any member of your household tests positive for COVID-19 during this closure. It's essential that this ongoing monitoring of COVID numbers and additional positive cases continue over this remote learning period.

In closing, I would like to wish everyone a happy and healthy 2022! I hope this new year brings peace and happiness to our students, families, and everyone in the Hawthorne community.

With Appreciation,



Richard A. Spirito