



VERNON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Dear Vernon Community,

Last week, on November 3, you received correspondence regarding the next phase of reopening which was to occur on November 16, 2020. Several items have changed in the last twenty-four hours and are impacting the pending reopening plan. They are as follows:

- New Jersey, as well as the country has seen an increase in COVID cases.
- The teacher shields that were ordered as additional PPE have not yet been delivered.
- We are experiencing significant staff shortages **which is no fault of our fine teachers and staff.**
 - **For example:** In the last 24 hours there are 6 staff who (through outside close contact) will need to be quarantined for fourteen days. Finding substitute teachers to cover vacancies for two weeks in various certification areas is very challenging. Due to COVID, combining classes (due to a shortage of substitute teachers or regular faculty/staff) is not in the best interest of our students, staff, or families.

We are all well aware that people are coming in contact more with COVID positive cases. That increase in contact is beginning to impact the necessity to quarantine based on DOH guidelines. Therefore our faculty and staff, like many community members, are being ordered to quarantine based on potential exposure. This trend in exposure is not unique to our employees, however it is impacting our ability to adequately supervise all facets of instruction.

These recent developments make it impossible to move forward with the reopening plan as proposed. Reopening as planned without appropriate staffing levels would not be possible.

The County Office of Education feels it is prudent to do the following:

The Vernon Township School District will continue on the hybrid learning model from November 16 through the Thanksgiving break. The schedule is as follows:

Monday – November 16th – Blue (in school, Gold home) - **Synchronous (grs. 6-12)**

Tuesday – November 17th – Blue (in school, Gold home)

Wednesday – November 18th – Virtual – **Synchronous (grs. 6-12)**

Thursday – November 19th - Gold (in school, Blue home)

Friday – November 20th – Gold – (in school, Blue home) **Synchronous (grs. 6-12)**

***In-Person after school co-curricular activities begin the week of Nov. 16 - Nov. 20 at Glen Meadow and VTHS. A bus has been arranged for transportation home from school once per week.**

Monday - November 23rd - Blue (in school, Gold home) – **Synchronous (grs. 6-12)**

Tuesday – November 24th – Gold (in school, Blue home)

Wednesday – November 25th – All student Virtual – **Synchronous (grs. 6-12)**

Thursday – Thanksgiving

Friday – OFF

Monday – November 30th – Virtual - **Synchronous (grs. 6-12)**

Tuesday – December 1 – Virtual - **Synchronous (grs. 6-12)**

Wednesday – December 2nd – Virtual- **Synchronous (grs. 6-12)**

Thursday – December 3rd – Virtual - **Synchronous (grs. 6-12)**

Friday – December 4th – Virtual - **Synchronous (grs. 6-12)**

Finally the Department of Health in Sussex County is advising that should the county become “orange” according to the CALI index as published by the NJDOH, schools should consider going fully virtual. The Vernon Township School District is considering this option in order to keep families, students, and staff safe.

After Thanksgiving, the plan will again be reevaluated. We would like to express our continued gratitude toward families and the community in these extremely trying times. We realize the extreme challenges another change to the reopening plan presents for your work and home schedules. The flexibility and adaptability you have demonstrated is much appreciated by the district. We will continue to do our best to safely offer instruction to students as the year goes on.

Sincerely,

Karen D'Avino

Charles McKay

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Superintendent

Charles McKay
Assistant Superintendent