

Lincoln Park Public Schools

Preparing Tomorrow's Leaders at Lincoln Park Schools Today

James W. Grube
Superintendent of Schools

Nicole C. Schoening, CPA, SFO
Business Administrator/Board Secretary

November 24, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we prepare for the Thanksgiving Break, I want to share with you the updated guidance that has been provided by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) to local health departments and school districts. The document, [COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Local Health Departments for K-12 Schools](#), provides directives to schools relating to Covid-19 and was last updated on November 19th. This document is used to help guide decisions that the district makes regarding Covid-19 and the operations of the schools. The Public Health Nurse also references it when consulting the district with regards to the operations of the schools.

The other key document that the State and the district use to assist in the decision making process is the [COVID-19 Activity Level Report](#). The Activity Level Report groups counties into regions and identifies the data around the positive cases of Covid-19 in the State. Morris County is in the Northwest region, along with Passaic, Sussex and Warren Counties. The Northwest group is currently listed in the orange category indicating a high rate of transmission. Districts are directed, when marked as orange, to review the data within the schools and consider moving the district to 100% virtual instruction. We have reviewed the number of confirmed cases in the schools, and since the opening of school in September, we have had seven total confirmed cases, one additional confirmed case since my last letter to you dated November 6th. At this point in time we are planning to continue to offer the Hybrid Model of instruction to your children. I also want to make you aware that if the Northwest region moves into the red category, which designates a very high risk region, the schools are required to move to 100% virtual instruction. I am very concerned that the data is showing that we will likely be moving into the red category in the very near future. The staff, students, and parents have to be prepared to move to 100% virtual instruction at any time. I hope this does not happen, but it may be inevitable. You also have to be aware that even if the Northwest Region remains in the orange category, we still may need to move to 100% virtual instruction to assure the safety and well-being of our students and staff. Please take some time to review both documents as it will help give you a better idea how decisions are being made by the district. Please pay special attention to the procedures for close contacts, quarantining, and isolation while in the orange category.

Another item that I would like to alert you to is the security drill the schools will be running tomorrow, Monday, November 30th at noon. We will be testing our emergency alert system, as is required by the Department of Education. At noon on Monday a test message will be sent to the main number we have on file in the Genesis Student System. It is only a test and if you get the message there is nothing else that you need to do. If you don't get an alert message, please contact the building principals so that they can check the system for your number. This is a very important drill as in case of an emergency, this will be the main method of contacting you. Accurate phone numbers are very important for the alert system to work properly.

As we look forward to Thanksgiving Day, I would like to remind everyone that if you are traveling out of state, your child will be required to quarantine for fourteen days before returning to school. I recognize this can cause a hardship for many families, but it is important in limiting the risk of spreading the Covid-19 virus in the schools. The Lincoln Park Community has done such a nice job following the procedures in place, as is evident by our low positive cases in the schools, and I am confident your cooperation will continue. It is so important to keep the school nurses up to date on any health issues your child or family members may be experiencing as it could very well be related to the Covid-19 virus.

In closing, I recognize the prognosis for the upcoming weeks does not look promising, but we will continue to try to make the best of some very difficult times and continue to provide quality instruction to your children. Again, I want to thank you for your continued cooperation and encourage you to continue the open and honest communication many of you are having with our school nurses. Finally, I want to wish all of you a very happy, safe and healthy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James W. Grube". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

James W. Grube
Superintendent of Schools