



November 13, 2020

Dear Keeneyville District 20 Families,

As you know, we have been very closely monitoring the trend of rising COVID-19 cases. With your help and due to our internal safety protocols, we have been able to maintain a safe learning environment in our schools. However, the number of our employees and students who have been in close contact with or have tested positive for COVID-19 is beginning to grow. While most of these cases have occurred outside of our school district facilities, our staff and students need to quarantine which directly impacts our capacity to properly staff and maintain a safe in-person hybrid learning model.

Moving to Full-Remote Learning

District 20 will implement an “Adaptive Pause” in our in-person learning and we will switch students in all grades, and at all schools, to a full remote learning model starting after Thanksgiving Break, on November 30 and continuing until after winter break. Our goal is to return to the in-person hybrid/remote learning model on **Monday, January 4**, if we can do so safely. We will continue to closely monitor COVID-19 metrics and provide updates to families. We know that this decision is likely frustrating and challenging for students and families, but please be assured that it is our students, families, and staff that we want to protect.

What Does this Mean for You and Your Student?

- **Continued Health Protocols:** D20 health and safety protocols will remain in place while students are in full remote learning and during Thanksgiving and winter breaks. Health information is critical to us to be able to make informed decisions to quarantine and when we can return to in-person learning. It also allows us to document COVID-19 cases to DCHD as we are required. ***We ask that staff and parents/guardians continue to report if their child has had (1) symptoms of COVID-19, (2) close contact with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19, and/or (3) has tested positive for COVID-19.***
- **Student Attendance:** Help us to keep your child connected for educational and social-emotional support during remote learning. We have seen an increase in the number of students who are not fully engaged in classes, especially in middle school. Please know that student attendance and grades will continue to be recorded daily. If your child is unable to attend remote classes, you must [report the school absence](#) to your school and provide the reason for the absence.
- **Food Services:** All children age 18 and under will continue to be able to receive free meals through full remote learning. There will be only one pick-up day during Thanksgiving Week which is Monday, November 23, when 7-day meal packs will be distributed. Online Pre-registration is required. See [D20 Food Services](#) for all details.
- **Technology Support:** Starting Monday, November 16, we will provide [drive-up technology support](#) at each of our buildings on a daily basis. No appointment is needed and you may go to any location during the scheduled times. All technology help requests should still be sent to technology@esd20.org.
- **Free Internet Programs:** Families who are eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch Program may also be eligible for one of D20's new free internet programs. Families may apply to have free internet installed at home through a D20 partnership with Comcast. D20 is also starting a new program to loan Free WiFi Hotspots to families through the end of the school year. There is no cost for either program, visit [D20 Free Internet Programs](#) to see if you are eligible and apply.
- **Park District Childcare:** The park district will continue to offer childcare at Waterbury School for all Keeneyville families. More details will be shared next week.

With Thanksgiving approaching, it is a time for us to count our blessings. We are especially grateful for our supportive students and families during this very challenging year. Please help us to thank our D20 staff and teachers for all that they do by taking part in our [#ESD20Thankful campaign](#) by submitting a note of appreciation to your teacher, sharing a picture or story, and using the hashtag to help spread positivity and thankfulness!

Sincerely,

Dr. Omar Castillo
Superintendent of Schools
Keeneyville ESD 20