



# Pequannock Township Public Schools

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Michael Portas, Superintendent of Schools

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30 March 2021

Dear Pequannock Township School District Community:

As a district we are planning to expand in-person opportunities for our students for the last two months of the school year. We will follow the guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health and do what is possible based on current health information as well as what our facilities allow. The revised CDC recommendations that allow us to have middle and high school students seated within three feet of each other will help us move forward, but the recommendations also require that we are in the Moderate or Low risk category.

Currently our region is in the High Risk (orange) designation, which prevents us from committing to a set date to combine cohorts at PV/PTHS. The plans in this document depend on health information that is beyond our control, but we are sharing the plans that we will implement when we are safely in the Moderate (yellow) or Low Risk (green) designations.

## Elementary Schools

To maximize our in-person time, we will move the 2:00-2:40 remote block to a 12:40-1:20 in-person block. Students will then be dismissed for the day. Teachers will have their lunch and then have shared planning time to conclude the day. During this time staff will meet in data review teams, generate shared assessments, plan collaboratively, and twice per week conduct individual/small group support sessions.

At this point we are unable to serve lunch at this time due to the restrictions on space for lunch and the size of our facilities. We continue to work to find solutions to allow for a full lunch/recess block at some point either later in the school year or for the start of September.

This plan does not depend on the regional risk matrix and will be implemented starting the week of **April 19th**. Preschool and Special Ed programs at NB will not be affected.

## PV

In advance of combining cohorts, the school will move to the current Wednesday schedule on a Monday-Friday basis starting **April 12th**. Mr. Seborowski will share details about expectations involving the schedule.

If our region moves to the Moderate or Low Risk category on the April 8th update from the state, beginning April 19th our middle school students will be able to attend school five days per week without employing a cohort structure. If our region remains in the High Risk category, we will

postpone the move for at least one week to an earliest start date of April 26th, pending the update on April 15th.

**If our regional designation reverts back to the High Risk level, we will in all likelihood need to return to a cohort format.**

### **PTHS**

In advance of combining any cohorts, the school will move to the current Wednesday schedule on a Monday-Friday basis starting **April 12th**. Mr. Hayzler will share details about expectations involving the schedule.

Assuming our region moves to the Moderate or Low Risk category on the April 8th update from the state, the high school will begin to phase in more students as we look to eliminate cohorts. Our first group will be our seniors, who we hope to have return on April 19th, and then we will work to phase in other grade levels. If our region remains in the High Risk category, we will postpone the move for at least one week to an earliest start date of April 26th, pending the update on April 15th.

**If our regional designation reverts back to the High Risk level, we will in all likelihood need to return to a cohort format.**

Our road forward to “normal” remains an ongoing project, the progress for which we will continue to communicate. We are working together as a collective school community and your support is critical. Please continue to follow health and safety guidelines, including those surrounding spring break travel, to ensure that we can continue to open our schools more. We look forward to a full opening in September, conditions permitting, and hope to be able to move closer to that goal through June.

Sincerely,  
Michael Portas  
Superintendent of Schools