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UPPER ADAMS SCHOOL DISTRICT

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November 19, 2020

Dear Upper Adams School District Family Members:

Please take time to read this letter so you are aware of updates related to district health and safety and other important matters for consideration in the days and weeks to come.

Our district schools have operated with in-person or hybrid learning since August 26, 2020, and we are approaching the one-third point in our 180-day school calendar. Overall, we have had a successful implementation of our District *Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan* with the tremendous help of the entire school community. Thank you!

Families have been very understanding and cooperative when communicating their child's illness, a family member's illness, exposures to illnesses, and other matters to prevent the spread of any illness. Your communication is critical and without your support, we would have seen results that could have closed down our schools weeks ago. As of today (November 19, 2020), we have 32 students in quarantine (K-12) due to potential exposures from a family or community member to COVID. This is an increase of 12 additional students in quarantine since Tuesday (November 17, 2020).

As of today, we have had no positive COVID cases among students, but COVID data points in Adams County and throughout Pennsylvania are increasing and we are monitoring these numbers very closely over the next several days and weeks. We want to see these county numbers decreasing in the future weeks to prevent larger community spread in Adams County. I know that Pennsylvania officials are also viewing this data by county, but at this time (Thursday, November 19, 2020), we have not heard any new guidance to change our current instructional models (in-person and hybrid).

Our District Health and Safety Plan continues to keep our schools open. The Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) does have the authority to close schools, but as of Thursday, November 19, 2020, they have only provided our school district recommendations. In the future days, weeks, and months to come there may be times we must close a classroom, a grade level, as school, or the district for various amounts of time resulting from the impacts of COVID-19. However, we hope our District health and safety plans assist in minimizing those options because we realize the overall educational process is best when we are able to provide in-person learning as much as possible.

We do not know what challenges we will be facing in the future, but we have been preparing for the potential of a switch to "remote learning" in an effort to be prepared for a worst-case situation. With the county COVID numbers increasing over the past several weeks, we are asking students to take home materials needed for "remote learning" before the Thanksgiving break as a safeguard. **At this time (Thursday, November 19, 2020), I do not plan to switch to remote.** Therefore, unless something would change over the next several days or during the time we are out on the Thanksgiving break, we will continue with our current instructional plans.

If there is a need to switch to "remote learning", we will notify everyone as soon as possible in order for the school community to plan accordingly. The future days and weeks will be critical. A letter from Upper Adams School District nurses was added to our district webpage to remind you about recommended guidance to keep everyone safe and healthy. The letter also includes a listing of COVID-19 symptoms to monitor.

As the holidays approach, please keep the following advice in mind:

- Please be thoughtful about the size of your gatherings and possible risks of COVID-19 exposure.
- If someone in your household is being tested, please keep everyone home until the results are received.
- Parents should notify your student's principal or school nurse if someone tests positive for COVID-19

Thank you again for your attention to the District communications. We will continue to place our communications on our District webpage so everyone can refer to this information. We rely on the support of our community to continue providing in-person instruction. We appreciate everyone's cooperation and vigilance with the safety measures (masks, distancing, hygiene) both in and out of school, as well as the careful monitoring of students for illness each morning. Thank you again for all your efforts to help increase health and safety in our entire school community.

Sincerely,

Wesley T. Doll