



The School District of Jenkintown
West and Highland Avenue
Jenkintown, PA 19046-2698

Dr. Jill A. Takacs
Superintendent
(215) 885-3722

October 30, 2020

Parents and Guardians,

As we continue to monitor the statistics regarding COVID-19 transmission rates, and consult with the Montgomery County Office of Public Health (OPH) and the CHOP Policy Lab health officials, I want to share with you the most recent predictions. Positivity and transmission rates are on the rise nationally, including in Pennsylvania. We are fortunate in Montgomery County to still have relatively low rates; however, they too are rising. The county positivity rate as of today is 3.1%. We have the ability to slow the spread if we adhere to our Health and Safety Plan AND parents and guardians continue to work with us, strictly adhering to our procedures and protocols.

First and foremost, it is critical for all parents and guardians to monitor their children's symptoms each and every morning before departing for school. Any student exhibiting symptoms should remain home.

The Montgomery County OPH has outlined a document to help schools determine when a student should be excluded from school. Symptoms that require school exclusion according to the Montgomery County OPH are:

One of the following symptoms:

Cough
Shortness of Breath
Difficulty Breathing
New loss of sense of taste or smell

OR

Two of the following symptoms:

Fever-measured or subjective
Chills
Fatigue
Myalgia-(muscle aches)
Headache
Sore Throat
Congestion
Nausea
Vomiting
Diarrhea

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If your child has a combination of these symptoms, as outlined above, the recommendation is to have a COVID-19 test.

If the test is negative or your child's doctor has written a note with a differential diagnosis- Your child can return to school when he/she has no fever for 24 hours without taking fever reducing medication and improved respiratory symptoms.

If the test is positive or no testing is done- your child can return to school when fever free for 24 hours without medication, improvement in symptoms, **and it has been 10 days since the symptoms began. Please provide us with a copy of all written documentation regarding positive testing.**

Please be aware, we will be in close contact with our school doctor and the Montgomery County OPH to ensure the safety of our school community. This is the chart we are using from Montgomery County OPH for school exclusion. If there are any changes to this information as the school year progresses, we will communicate with you.

<https://www.montcopa.org/DocumentCenter/View/28942/COVID-19-School-Exclusion-Guide-v7>

As far as our sports teams are concerned, we will continue to follow our Athletics Plan, including the recent addendum requiring high contact sports (football, and basketball) to attend school virtually for one week prior to contact and two weeks after the final game. We have a unified campus with elementary and secondary students sharing the same facilities, it is critical that we take these precautions for the safety of all students and staff. Additionally, we have been informed that COVID-19 cases are rising among travel sports teams. If your child plays on one of these teams, we ask you to diligently monitor your child for mask wearing and social distancing, when not actively engaged in play, AND that your child stay home from school if they are showing any symptoms as noted above.

Furthermore, as the holidays are approaching, we ask you to adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Please be extremely diligent when attending any social gatherings, that extend beyond your immediate family. It is important to follow the established guidelines for wearing masks, and socially distancing from others, at least 6 feet. During Halloween, other upcoming holidays, and celebratory events, individuals may be inclined to let their guard down regarding these established precautions. **I urge you to be even more diligent. Your assistance is critical for keeping our doors open in the upcoming months.**
2. The PA Department of Health has advised that if you have traveled, or plan to travel, to an area where there are high amounts of COVID-19 cases, by order of the Governor, it is recommended that you stay at home for 14 days upon return to Pennsylvania.

Please be aware, if you choose to travel to the following states with your family (or if the state appears on the list at the time of your departure from PA), **students will not be permitted to return to the school for fourteen (14) days from your return date back to PA.**

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arkansas
- Florida
- Idaho
- Illinois

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- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Utah
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

We encourage all families to stay informed of the latest information surrounding travel restrictions by visiting the Department of Health Website.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>

We thank you for your cooperation with these above guidelines so that we may keep everyone safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Jill A. Takacs

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