

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

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

December 17, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Students,

I realize that you are receiving numerous correspondences from me regarding Covid-19 updates; however, I want to keep you abreast as information is everchanging. In my correspondence dated December 3, 2020, I outlined the most recent school closure guidance due to Covid-19. It can be accessed using this link:

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergencyplanning/COVID-19/SchoolReopeningGuidance/ReopeningPreKto12/PublicHealthGuidance/Pages/SchoolClosureRecommendations.aspx>

As I mentioned, Jenkintown is considered by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health as one medium-sized facility because our buildings are interconnected, many staff serve both our elementary school and our secondary school, and students migrate between both buildings throughout the day.

The new metrics in the PDE correspondence apply to district data and actual cases in our schools depending upon the level of transmission in our county. As a medium sized facility, if we are in “substantial spread,” the guidance suggests that we should close schools for 3-7 days if we have 4-6 students or staff who test positive, or who are considered a presumptive positive by a health care professional. Because the mandate includes ranges we can determine what is best for our district. It also states that if case investigations, contact tracing, and cleaning and disinfecting can be accomplished in a faster time frame, the length of closure time may be shortened.

Superintendents are being told by the Montgomery County Office of Public Health and the CHOP Policy Lab that unless there is linked transmission in school, we need to only remain closed for as long as needed to clean the building and contact trace. Currently our case count for student/staff positive Covid-19 cases is two. Because this is below the threshold of four, for a medium sized facility, there is no evidence of linked transmission in school, we have been in virtual mode/closed for the past two days, and our buildings have been thoroughly cleaned, school will be open tomorrow, December 18, 2020. Furthermore, we intend to remain open next week Monday through Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>.

As communicated in my December 15<sup>th</sup> correspondence, we will remain in virtual mode for the week after the winter holiday break from January 4<sup>th</sup> through January 8<sup>th</sup>. This pause from our hybrid model will assist us in determining if staff or students were symptomatic, or needed to quarantine as a result of exposure from Covid-19 during our winter recess. We fully intend to return to our hybrid model

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beginning Monday, January 11, 2021. This includes our extension program for our kindergarten and first grade students.

This being said, we will continue to be diligent in our efforts to keep school open safely. If we find any linked transition in school, or if contract tracing takes an extended amount of time for subsequent cases, additional school closures may be necessary.

Please note, the school exclusion guidance was updated as of December 7<sup>th</sup>. You can access it at the following link:

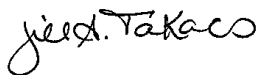
[https://www.jenkintowndrakes.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/COVID-19-School-Exclusion-Guide-Dec-2020\\_202012080731256559.pdf](https://www.jenkintowndrakes.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/COVID-19-School-Exclusion-Guide-Dec-2020_202012080731256559.pdf).

Furthermore, the PA DOH has made additional substantive changes to the PA Travel Order FAQ today, December 17, 2020. If you plan to travel over the holidays, I encourage you to check the travel order regularly so that you are complying with the order and we can keep everyone safe. It can be accessed at the following link:

[www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx](http://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx)

I will continue to provide you with the most recent updates. Have a safe and blessed holiday season.

Stay safe and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill A. Takacs". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jill A. Takacs, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools