



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

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

March 1, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Students,

As the Covid-19 positivity and incident rates decline, some restrictions across Pennsylvania have been lifted. As of today, March 1, 2021, the Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health for Mitigation Relating to Travel is no longer in effect. Travelers should still practice appropriate public health measures to slow the spread of COVID-19 such as masking, physical distancing, and hand hygiene.

The Department has information specific to travel that can be found [here](#). You can also read about the Governor's announcement regarding travel [here](#).

Furthermore, the February 16, 2021 School Exclusion Guidelines reflect updated travel guidance and protocols for exposure of vaccinated individuals, which can be found [here](#).

The most recent 7-day positivity rate for Montgomery County is 6.28% and the incident rate per 100K residents is 149.96 for the week ending 2/23/21. Based upon this data, Montgomery County is still in "substantial spread" because of its incident rate. As a comparison, Jenkintown's 14-day positivity rate is 3.85% and its incident rate per 100K residents is 22.51 for the week ending 2/18/21. Because of our size, these statistics can be somewhat confusing. We have roughly 4,426 residents in Jenkintown; therefore, this would equate to approximately 1 positive case in the Borough over the 14 days prior to 2/18/21. The Montgomery County Office of Public Health (MCOPH) uses county data to drive school-based recommendations. The county incident and positivity rates will be closely monitored in the upcoming weeks to see if our county reaches moderate or low rates of these metrics consistently.

Although, the vaccine roll out in our county has been very slow, the majority of staff designated in the 1A category have received at least their first vaccine dose, and the remainder of interested staff designated as 1A, should be able to secure an appointment in the near future. All other Jenkintown employees are designated in the 1B category and will be eligible in the next round. We are hopeful that this will transpire shortly.

As we move into the "moderate" or "low" rates of disease spread consistently, and more staff become vaccinated, we will seriously consider bringing back students in person more regularly. It is my hope that we can look at new educational models beginning sometime after spring recess. I will keep you updated accordingly. Thank you for your continued support as we navigate these difficult times.

Stay safe and be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill A. Takacs".

Jill A. Takacs, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

The School District of Jenkintown is an equal opportunity employer and provider