

## OCEAN CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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[www.oceancityschools.org](http://www.oceancityschools.org)



November 23, 2020

Dear School Community:

On Friday, the Cape May County Department of Health (CMCDH) advised the Cape May County Superintendents that our Southeast region (Cumberland, Atlantic and Cape May Counties) may be moving into the high-risk level for community COVID-19 transmission. The Health Department anticipate that they will know that status on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.

The CDC and New Jersey Department of Health have developed a COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix for providing guidance for schools on actions that should be taken based on the level of COVID-19 risk in their region ([COVID-19 Regional Risk Matrix](#)). According to this matrix when the region is in high-risk status, school districts should:

- Consider implementing fully remote learning;
- If schools remain open for in-person learning and in response to staff or student who is a COVID-19 case or who has COVID-19 compatible symptoms (not yet tested), follow COVID-19 exclusion criteria;
- Work with their local health department to identify and exclude close contacts according to CDC guidance; refer to guidance on cleaning and disinfection;
- Restrict activities that involve interaction with multiple cohorts.

Also discussed at this meeting is the Health Department's concern about having students take off their mask at lunch time and being able to space 6' apart. It's our concern too, especially at the High School. Please know that from the onset of the pandemic, our goal has been to balance providing a quality education with protecting the health and welfare of our school community; that community extends beyond our school walls to our students' and staff members' families and friends – even the people we interact with in our grocery stores and post offices.

We will keep you informed of major updates via SwiftK-12 messaging. We will share additional information on our website, [oceancityschools.org](http://oceancityschools.org), as well as via our social media and community outreach platforms.

We are hopeful that if each of us does our part to [protect ourselves and others from the spread of COVID-19](#), we will be able to maintain in-person student schedules as that is always our goal.

We appreciate your understanding, your flexibility, and your continued unwavering commitment to our Ocean City schools and community. Please stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Kathleen W. Taylor, Ed.D.  
Superintendent



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