

November 29, 2020



Good Afternoon CVSU Families:

Well it's late Sunday afternoon of Thanksgiving weekend during a pandemic. I hope you and yours were able to salvage some part of the holiday and that you were all able to get some kind of break.

These next few weeks are likely to be our most challenging with regard to schools.

As some of you already know, Washington Village School and Northfield Elementary School are both going remote for this upcoming week. We expect students and staff to return to in person instruction on Monday, December 7th. The decision to go remote was based on our inability to staff the schools safely. We had two positive cases at WVS and one at NES. We had a number of staff that were considered close contacts and are now quarantining leaving us short staffed.

The staff across the supervisory union have been working incredibly hard to keep our schools open in support of our families. They have been working tirelessly to follow safety protocols to keep the schools safe places for your students to come and for them to work. Many of our staff have young families, as well as elderly fragile family members living with them and similar to you, live constantly with the fear that they will bring the virus home.

Last Tuesday, in response to the Governor's order I announced the new screening question. Many members of our communities took to social media to air their frustrations. I'd like to offer a different perspective on the purpose of the health questions. I look at them as a daily opportunity for **you** to ask **yourself** if you or members of your family have participated in activities that might have put you at risk? In other words, if you send your student to school, will you put other students and the staff at risk? We are relying on you to keep the schools safe and to keep them open.

Many of you have reached out to the schools for clarification of the quarantine expectations and restrictions. For that, we are eternally grateful. But I am also hearing reports that some parents and older students are speaking freely about being exposed to COVID but intending to not tell the school and have the students return to in person instruction. Students are asking principals to make certain these students are not in school on Monday. You are absolutely right - it is not our job to "police" the students, but it is our job to safeguard them and we are relying on you to help us.

As of this moment, Northfield and Williamstown Middle High Schools, Orange Center School and Williamstown Elementary School will be open tomorrow morning for in person instruction. We will take this one day at a time.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Have a good rest of your evening.

Sincerely,

Susette Bollard, Superintendent