

Montgomery Township School District

Creating confident, compassionate, and successful learners

Community Letter: January 8, 2021

Return to in-person Instruction

January 8, 2021

Dear Montgomery Township School Community,

Happy New Year! We are excited to once again welcome students back into our buildings. Students who have chosen the hybrid model of instruction and other specifically identified groups of students, who are already aware, will commence in-person instruction on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

This is a lengthy message that is formatted to be readily translated if needed. If you prefer a PDF version that cannot translate, please use the attached document.

In preparation for our students and staff return, we are committed to providing a safe and healthy educational environment. Your partnership with the district in meeting this goal is critical. Please review the important information on the following topics:

- Health/Safety
- Instructional Model Selection/Survey Results
- Genesis Message

Thank you for your continued support and attention to this important information.

Sincerely,

Mary E. McLoughlin

Health/Safety

The daily COVID-19 symptom screening form will be sent to students/parents/guardians beginning on Monday, January 11th. The screening form must be completed for all students, both hybrid and virtual.

This safety measure restarts on Monday, January 11, because the information will inform district nurses and administrators of current COVID-19 activity and levels in our community and will aid staff in preparing for the return to in-person instruction. Additionally, our District sports have begun and daily screening forms will be needed for student-athletes.

- Parents/guardians are required to complete this survey on a daily basis prior to their child(ren) entering school. **If your child(ren) or member(s) of your household** is/are currently symptomatic with new and/or unexplained* symptoms or meet(s) the additional criteria below, it is required they remain out of school and/or school activities.
 - *Examples of symptoms that are "explained" include cough, sore throat, headache associated with seasonal allergies, muscle aches associated with strenuous exercise; etc.
- If any member of your household is exhibiting symptoms consistent with COVID-19, please complete the screening appropriately, contact your child's school nurse and **keep all children/siblings home**.
- If your child becomes symptomatic while attending in-person instruction, your child and all other **siblings** in the district will need to be picked up; further instructions to return to school/school-sponsored events will be provided to you by the school nurse.
- If your child or anyone living in your household was exposed to a person who tested positive for Covid-19, they must quarantine for 14 days before returning to in-person learning/school-sponsored events.
- If a student is home, sick with Covid-19 symptoms, please keep all other children in that household home until the symptomatic student sees a doctor or tests negative and follows the quarantine period.

Important note:

On January 1, 2021, the [New Jersey Department of Health](#) updated their guidance for pediatricians. Per the new guidance, “any child with COVID-19 compatible symptoms should not return to school until they have either received a negative viral test (molecular or antigen) for SARS-CoV-2 or they have completed an isolation period of at least 10 days since symptom onset and at least 24 hours after resolution of fever without fever-reducing medications with symptom improvement. A purely clinical alternative diagnosis is no longer acceptable.” Contact tracing will commence for all students with COVID-19-type symptoms regardless of whether they reported to school or not.

Travel

The travel advisory is no longer specific to certain states. Because of the rising number of cases across the states, there is an increased risk of spreading COVID-19 upon return from any travel.

***** If you, your child or a member of your household travels out-of-state, please notify the school immediately. Your child will have to quarantine for 10 days after travel per the state guidelines, regardless of COVID-19 testing.*****

For more information please visit [NJ Government COVID-19 Travel Site](#).

Coronavirus is still very active in New Jersey. Please take precautions. Wear a mask. Maintain social distancing. Wash your hands frequently.

Instructional Model Selection/Survey Results

The chart below details, both by school and the district as a whole, the percentage of students who will be engaged in the Fully-Virtual and Hybrid models of instruction beginning January 19 through April 16, 2021. This data is from the *Instructional Model Choice Survey K-12 Jan-Apr* administered in December 2020 to families.

School	% of Students who chose Fully Virtual Jan 19-April 16, 2021	% of Students who chose Hybrid Jan 19-April 16, 2021
OHES	57.09%	42.91%
VES	61.31%	38.69%
LMS	62.13%	37.87%
UMS	63.12%	36.88%
MHS	67.54%	32.46%
District Total	63.25%	36.75%

- “Health and Safety Concerns” was the most common reason identified by parents/guardians who selected the Fully Virtual Instructional Model.
 - “My child’s social and emotional needs are best met through in-person instruction” was the most common reason identified by parents/guardians who selected the Hybrid Instructional Model.
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Genesis Message

By the end of the day on Friday, January 8th, parents and students will be able to see in Genesis Parent Access the Instructional Model Choice that will be effective from January 19, 2021 to April 16, 2021.

Please login to Parent Access and navigate to the Summary page under the Student Data tab. Under each student photo you will see two important items:

1. The Rotation Group-this field displays the days your child will attend in-person while we are running the Hybrid Instructional Mode.
2. The Instructional Mode-located at the bottom of this section you will see the mode you have chosen, the options are **Online or Hybrid**.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's vice principal immediately so they can answer your questions or update our records accordingly. We look forward to continuing this partnership with you; your feedback, positive and constructive, is truly appreciated and valued.