

CONEMAUGH TOWNSHIP AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent*

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November 18, 2020

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and Community Members:

Please allow this communication to serve as an update related to the current Covid-19 conditions at the Conemaugh Township Area School District. Yesterday we were informed of two new positive cases within the District, one student and one teacher. This brings our active cases to two in each building. After being notified, district administration contacted the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) for further guidance. After gathering factual information and conferring with the DOH, it was determined that several additional students would need to be quarantined at home for fourteen (14) days. Currently, we have nearly 100 students and 10 staff members on quarantine and this list continues to grow on a daily basis. This has made continuing face-to-face instruction a significant challenge. Therefore, after a lengthy discussion at last night's Board meeting, the decision has been made to move to remote learning in both buildings starting tomorrow, Thursday, November 19. We made this decision based on DOH guidelines, the surge in positive cases in Somerset County and the current circumstances within our District mentioned above.

We are also pausing our school based activities and sports for a period of two weeks. The closure will be re-evaluated and discussed at the next Board meeting which is scheduled for December 8, 2020. Please know that we did our very best to remain open and I thank all of you for your cooperation and understanding. I want all parents to know that we will be providing food services during our period of remote learning, therefore, if you have not yet completed the survey for food services, please do so as soon as possible regardless of need. Details will be communicated in another message once all the logistics are developed. **To allow teachers time to finalize preparation for tomorrow, we will be dismissing one hour early in both buildings today.** We will also be working to provide a Chromebook to those that were on the waiting list so your child can bring them home today. Tomorrow's activities will be limited to posted assignments with live synchronous learning starting on Friday.

Most importantly, we realize that the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted our students in many different ways. Please know that during our closure, teachers and counselors will be working from their classrooms and offices, and will be available for you and your children. Please do not hesitate to reach out to them if you have questions or you see your children struggling.

Please reference the specific building level instructions and expectations for remote learning that were communicated earlier and are located on the top of our web page under the link "Important Covid-19 Documents, It is vitally important that we all continue to work together to ensure the safety of all students, staff and community members.

Respectfully,

Thomas J. Kakabar

Thomas J. Kakabar
Superintendent of Schools

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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