



THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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November 30, 2020

Dear Thompson Families,

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for your support and patience as we navigate the many challenges that the COVID-19 virus has forced upon us. Today we welcome our onsite middle and high school students' return after an almost two-week round of remote learning.

We are continuously reminding students to follow the mitigation strategies we have in place:

- Wearing a well-fitting face mask that always covers the mouth and nose
- Maintaining social distancing – even during outdoor masks breaks
- Washing hands frequently with soap and water AND/OR using hand sanitizer regularly
- Staying home if you are experiencing any COVID-19-like symptoms

Health experts have warned that the Thanksgiving holiday may result in an increase of COVID-19 cases over the next few weeks. I urge parents and guardians to be prepared to have childcare in place if your child's school must transition to remote learning. This may happen with little advance notice.

A decision to change from onsite to distance learning is made by considering the following variables:

- Thompson community COVID-19 metric data
- Number of close contacts to a positive COVID-19 case among students, faculty & staff
- Number of students, faculty & staff that must stay home and quarantine
- Recommendation made by health officials at Northeast Department of Health

I understand the hardship that switching to a remote learning model can place on working families. Everyone at Thompson Public Schools have worked together to keep our schools open. We are committed to continuing this practice as long as our schools have a safe and healthy environment.

The district will continue to release students early on Fridays **through the month of December** to provide teachers with much-needed planning time. A decision to continue early release days after the first of the year will be made by the Thompson Board of Education members at their next meeting to be held **on Monday, December 14, 2020, at 7:00 pm** via ZOOM. The meeting link will be posted on the main page of the district's website.

If you have any questions or concerns about COVID-19, please contact our Lead Nurse, Shannon Grauer, at Sgrauer@thompsonpublicschools.org or by calling your child's school nurse.

As always, I am also available to answer questions.

Sincerely,

Melinda A. Smith

Melinda A. Smith, M.Ed.
Superintendent of Schools
