



THOMPSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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December 5, 2020

Dear Thompson Families,

I do hope you all received my call last evening informing you that all Thompson Public Schools will transition to a remote learning model starting on Monday, December 7, 2020, through Friday, January 8, 2021. In-person classes are expected to resume on Monday, January 11, 2021.

This was a difficult decision to make; however, the safety of our students, faculty, and staff must always be the priority of Thompson Public Schools. As the day progressed on Friday, we received positive COVID-19 cases among students that forced the decision to pause onsite instruction. Also, we expect more test results to be reported over the weekend that have a potential of a broader impact on our school community.

As I informed you in my last letter, health professionals' projections predict an increase of COVID-19 cases would occur after the Thanksgiving break and the upcoming winter holidays. This is due to folks gathering with people outside of their immediate household. Hopefully, keeping students learning at home through January 8, 2021, will allow enough time to bring us beyond the infection window to resume onsite learning without interruption.

School Office Hours:

All school offices are open this week from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Please feel free to contact your child's school if you need school supplies, technology issues, or other resources. We are here to assist your family during this virtual learning period.

Please continue to keep our school nurses informed of any COVID-19 related health concerns. Our lead nurse, Shannon Grauer, can be reached at Sgrauer@thompsonpublicschools.org. You may also contact your child's school nurse directly next week during office hours.

Meal Service:

The district will begin free meal service for all children up to eighteen years old on **Tuesday, December 8, 2020**. Breakfast and lunch pick-up at the locations listed below will be distributed Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon. Meal service will not be available during the winter break, which is 12/24/20 – 1/4/21.

Lisa Durand, Food Service Director, will be contacting any parent who has signed up for home meal delivery on Monday to provide you with a more accurate time of drop off. Families can expect the delivery between 11:00 am and 12:00 noon. If you would like to schedule home meal delivery, please contact Lisa Durand at Ldurand@thompsonpublicschools.org.

Meal Pick-Up Locations:

- Thompson Middle School Front Entrance
 - Thompson Public Library
 - East Thompson Fire Station
 - Quinebaug Fire Station
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School Books or Supplies:

If your child forgot something at school and will need it to complete assignments, please email your school principal, and they will arrange a time for you to pick it up. No one will be allowed inside the school, so you will need to provide specific details about what is required and its location.

I will continue to provide you with updates over the next few weeks.

On behalf of the Thompson Board of Education, administrators, faculty, and staff members, we wish you a happy holiday season. We all look forward to returning to onsite learning next month and hope that our area's current COVID-19 positive cases subside.

Please stay safe and healthy,

Melinda A. Smith

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