



NEW PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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October 7, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff,

Good morning and Happy Fall! I want to update our community regarding two important aspects, the length of quarantine of our students and staff and the instructional program for our quarantined students. As you know, these two major elements of COVID have been discussed at length over the past three school years and have evolved during that time.

Students and staff who are considered a close contact via contact tracing are required to quarantine for 14 days due to our regional risk factor, or COVID-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) score, which is High. We recognize that there is a distinct difference between our region and the activity or number of active cases in New Providence. This has caused some confusion and frustration with our current quarantine protocol.

In reviewing this information with our regional health department and local health officials, we will continue to follow the quarantine protocol which is commensurate with our CALI score. All of the school districts within the Westfield Regional Health Office jurisdiction are still using the 14-day protocol. In the event that we see a change in our region, we will address the quarantine protocol accordingly.

After much consideration, we have decided to provide all quarantined students with Zoom access to their classrooms. Students who are home quarantined will also be able to engage their teachers with questions via Zoom. Zoom access will begin on Tuesday, October 12, 2021. I want to stress that our staff will prioritize their in-person instruction, but access will be granted to our quarantined students. COVID support will still be available for quarantined students as well. This will be at the discretion of our teachers as they monitor their students' progress.

We will continue to evaluate these changes and make any necessary adjustments throughout the school year. Hopefully, we will see a decrease in COVID activity, and the opportunity for children under the age of 12 to have access to a vaccine. These two factors will significantly alter the number of students required to quarantine in the future.

We thank you for your continued support and patience as we navigate our way through this school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Miceli, Ed.D.".

David M. Miceli, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools