

Mrs. Kimberly Sigman*Chief School Administrator***Mr. William Sabo***Interim Business Administrator***Mr. RJ Baumgartner***Vice Principal*

November 20, 2020

Dear Hamburg Community,

It is with a heavy heart that I reach out to you today. As recap, early in September the New Jersey Department of Health placed NJ counties into regions where COVID-19 transmission at the regional level, is being characterized by risk levels: low (green), moderate (yellow), high (orange), and very high (red). Weekly updates provide data as to the transmission rate of [COVID-19 by region](#). Hamburg School, Sussex County is in the Northwest Region; along with Warren, Morris, and Passaic counties.

Through a series of Sussex County meetings this past week, school leaders have been made aware that the Northwest region has just transitioned from moderate risk (yellow) to high risk (orange), and given the data from the last few days, we have unofficially reached very high transmission risk (red). With the impending holiday season compounded with this high/very high risk of transmission; schools within the Northwest region are being advised to immediately pivot to remote instruction for all students. **As a result, the Hamburg School, in conjunction with the Walkkill Valley regional schools will pivot to remote instruction beginning Monday, November 23, 2020 through Friday, December 11, 2020. At this time, we remain hopeful, and are planning to reopen our doors on Monday, December 14, 2020 to continue in person learning.**

As noted in all reopening correspondence, the Hamburg School is proud of the restart plan developed and implemented. We have all worked hard to maintain our operating schedule and have been successful up until this time. On behalf of the Hamburg staff, I share our sincere disappointment in this decision and truly hope that data begins to show decline in the near future. We are heartbroken for our students and their families, and truly do understand the burden this decision places on each of you.

In anticipation of an instructional pivot, teachers were asked to send school resource materials home with their students today. Remote instruction will begin for Hamburg students at 8:10 AM on Monday morning. Please review the [remote learning expectations](#) for all students during this Fall 2020 closure and reach out to your child's teacher in the event you have any questions.

In support of our students, the Hamburg School will continue to distribute lunches to all students. The lunch count [survey](#) will be posted to the Hamburg School website at www.hamburgschool.com where parents may indicate the number of lunches needed. Pickup schedule will be as follows:

- Week of November 23, 2020 – Monday/Wednesday (November 23 & 25)
- Week of November 30, 2020 – Monday/Thursday (November 30 & December 3)
- Week of December 7, 2020 – Monday/Thursday (December 7 & 10)

We remain proud of the 54 days of in person instruction we have had this year without the need to close. This is a testament to the Hamburg community for being safe outside of school, and it is a testament to our staff for implementing consistent safety protocols inside of school. Although a switch to all virtual instruction was something we were trying to avoid, the increase of COVID-19 cases in our region makes that impossible at this time. We intend to return to an in person learning environment once the numbers in our region decrease. In the meantime, we are confident that our approach to virtual instruction will provide our students with the opportunity to thrive in a much greater capacity than they did last spring.

Happy Thanksgiving and stay well,

Kimberly Sigman

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Superintendent

