

Lancaster Central School District

*Superintendent's Office
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*Michael J. Vallely, Ph.D.
Superintendent*

November 18, 2020

Dear LCSD Parents and Guardians,

Moments ago, Governor Cuomo designated Lancaster as an Orange Cluster Zone. As a result, the Lancaster Central School District must shift from in-person learning to remote instruction for all hybrid students. *Phase I* of our Remote Instructional Plan will begin on Thursday November 19, 2020.

The Orange Zone designation is due to community spread, not school operations. Reverting back to 100% virtual learning structure is not what any of us want to do. I can tell you honestly that I am disappointed for our children, but I am so proud of what this district and community has accomplished and we will continue to battle to the best of our ability to return to in-person instruction as soon as possible. More on that plan will be forthcoming.

More immediately, to help parents and guardians navigate this transition, this link to our [LCSD 100% Remote Instruction Plan](#) or visit our [LCSD COVID-19 & School Reopening Information](#) site at <https://www.lancasterschools.org/Domain/1866> for more details and resources. In summary, the plan is broken into three phases:

- Phase I - Instruction will begin on Thursday, November 19 and be completed through asynchronous learning for students while LCSD transitions to fully remote instruction. This phase will give parents time to find childcare and to attend to other familial concerns. It will also give teachers time to receive enhanced professional development around best practices and new remote teaching tools.
- Phase II - Will resume the A/B cycle of hybrid instruction but with all students meeting remotely and synchronously via Google Meet every other day as previously assigned. As it mirrors the hybrid model students are accustomed to, it will provide consistency and a recognizable structure for our youth. Students at the secondary level will be expected to follow their bell schedule. Students at the elementary level will have small and large group instruction throughout the day.
- Phase III - This phase would only be considered if the State or County officials require school buildings to be closed for the remainder of the school year. In this phase, synchronous learning will take place each day for all students. Transitioning to this model would require the district to make major alterations to student schedules as well as the potential for reassigning students to different teachers.

The plan also includes resources for technical assistance. Remote meal pick-up will continue to be provided on Mondays. Please visit the [LCSD COVID-19 & School Reopening Information](#) site for additional details.

I want to make you aware that in order to resume in-person instruction, ALL in-person students and staff would have to test negative within 7 days of reopening. In addition, we would have to meet a 25% weekly testing requirement. The Orange and Red testing metrics are extremely stringent, and **we would likely be**

forced to remain in remote instruction until we are placed back in a Yellow Zone or the micro-cluster designation is completely lifted.

The safety and well-being of our students is our top priority while maintaining our educational programs across the district. We are in this together and we will keep you updated as we receive more information. It is our hope that we can return to in-person instruction soon.

Please note: In District special education students that are currently attending school on a daily basis will be contacted by their special education teacher to arrange a schedule of remote instruction. Also, special education students attending out of district schools will receive communication from their respective schools as to how remote instruction will be provided.

Please direct any questions to your child's principal. Thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Vallely". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Michael J. Vallely, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools