



**District Update**  
**December 2, 2020**

District Family:

Please find today's memo from the Mayor and Office of Emergency Management attached. As you will note, various public buildings/facilities are closing temporarily with the intent to hopefully slow the spread of the COVID 19 virus. The District continues to work in partnership with our Boro officials and OEM on these matters as evidenced in weekly planning meetings and various other opportunities used to share information. As noted in all prior communications, the issue that schools across the country face is directly correlated to the community spread/transmission rate. The spread and transmission rarely takes place in the schools themselves but any such community transmission has an obvious impact on whether we can stay open or not. Therefore, this directive by our officials will hopefully assist in the slowing of the spread within the community, and allow us to maintain open doors at our district schools.

As noted in prior communications, Bergen County is in level "Orange" as far as the Regional Matrix that the DOH and DOE are using to assist in their guidance for local school districts. The District is using the matrix along with information provided by the Boro as to the rate of infection and correlating percent increases in Maywood on a weekly basis. We are in consistent communication with the County Health Department as well regarding any and all data that may have an impact on our schools.

We applaud everyone's efforts in helping to curb the spread, as the best place for our children is in school. Our data continues to show that our mitigation techniques and adherence to guidelines are working. Although there has been and will continue to be sporadic closures and the need to quarantine as a close contact in the event of a positive case, it is important to also note that there is little to no transmission inside the schools themselves in Maywood and elsewhere. Therefore, if we work on the reduction in the community spread, our chances to remain open as a school community increases exponentially.

We end with reminding everyone of the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention promoted safeguards, such as:

- Staying home when you are sick;
- Washing hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Practicing social distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart);
- Wearing a face covering while in school; and
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms.

Our District's goal has always been to keep our schools open and available for on-site instruction for as long as reasonably possible, while being ready to pivot to virtual instruction at a moment's notice, if need be. This is a fluid and evolving public health issue, but as always, we thank our school community and overall Maywood community, for their support.

Stay safe,

*Michael Jordan*

Superintendent of Schools