

# HIGH POINT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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November 17, 2020

Dear High Point Community:

Given the rising number of COVID-19 cases in New Jersey, and in our region, as well as the fact that several school districts have announced plans to close, I would like to provide you with some updated information related to these matters.

## ***Successful Reopening***

I believe we should all be pleased with the success of our reopening. Today marks the 51st day of school since we welcomed our students back to High Point on September 3. Due to the efforts of our staff and the cooperation of our students and parents, we have had a safe and successful start to the 2020-21 school year. This has been a tremendous community accomplishment of which I am hopeful you are all proud.

## ***Whether to Cease In-Person Instruction?***

The recent increase in positive COVID-19 cases has caused our [Northwest Region to move from low risk \(green\) to moderate risk \(yellow\)](#). The region is now close to moving from moderate to high risk (orange). If this should happen, New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) protocols for schools will become more stringent, and the possibility that High Point will be forced to suspend in-person activities will increase. Should our region advance to very high risk (red), closure will be state mandated.

Despite the possibility of a required closing, **High Point remains committed to continuing in-person instruction as well as in-person athletic and extracurricular activities**; we do not plan to suspend these in-person activities unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

Many school districts are anticipating moving to virtual instruction from the Thanksgiving recess through mid-January; High Point will be prepared should circumstances require the suspension of in-person instruction. The length of any such suspension of in-person instruction and activities will be dependent upon the guidelines established by Governor Murphy and in consultation with the DOH. Any changes in our instructional status will be communicated immediately.

## ***Possible Schedule Adjustments due to COVID-19***

If High Point needs to suspend in-person instruction due to COVID-19, classes would not be cancelled. Rather, we would switch to full-time remote instruction, similar to how we responded when we suspended in-person instruction in late September. In such an instance, we would continue to use our existing [2020-21 Bell Schedule](#) until further notice.

## ***Athletics and ExtraCurricular Activities***

The NJ DOH has instructed us that the suspension of in-person instruction due to COVID-19 also requires the suspension of in-person athletic and extracurricular activities.

## **Snow Days**

A primary goal of this school year is to provide students and staff with as much social and emotional normalcy as possible. In many ways the occasional closing of school for snow days can be a healthy and restorative break for our students; therefore, we will not completely eliminate this traditional experience. Should we need to close unexpectedly (weather, power outage, etc.), we will cancel all classes and proceed as we typically have done in the past for snow days -- these will not be virtual days, but snow days during which the school will be closed and there will be no instruction. As the winter months proceed, if the need for weather related closings is significant, we will consider utilizing a virtual schedule in lieu of cancellation of all instruction for the day. The option of eventually using virtual instruction instead of closing and cancelling instruction, will enable us to ensure that the last day of school and graduation for the Class of 2021 will take place no later than Friday, June 18.

I hope this information is helpful and thorough; please let me know if you have any questions. When dealing with this pandemic, circumstances change very rapidly. We are continuing to monitor this situation and will provide you with updates as appropriate. Thank you for your flexibility, your cooperation and your commitment to our students, our district and our community.

Sincerely,



Scott D. Ripley, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- a. NJDOH COVID-19 Information for Communities and the General Public:  
[https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019\\_community.shtml](https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/covid2019_community.shtml)
- b. Get the Facts about Coronavirus: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- c. Symptoms of COVID-19:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
- d. Testing: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/index.html>;  
<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/testing>
- e. How to Protect Yourself:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>
- f. What to Do if You Are Sick:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>