



**ANDOVER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Office of the Superintendent**

707 Limecrest Road

Newton, NJ 07860

Telephone: 973-315-5254 FAX: 973-579-3972

November 14, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Staff:

The most recent information reported by the Sussex County and NJ Departments of Health indicates that the number of positive cases of Covid-19 continues to rise. The Northwest Region, of which we are a part, recently moved from low risk (green) to moderate risk (yellow). We were informed that data now indicates that our region is coming very close to a move from moderate risk to high risk (orange), a change that could occur in the very near future. The DOH provided information indicating that should this change in status occur, the protocols for the handling of positive cases, probable cases and possible cases of Covid-19 in schools becomes more stringent, as do the protocols for contact tracing and quarantine. Compounding this is the onset of the holiday season that begins with Thanksgiving, during which the likelihood of family gatherings with those outside of the home increases as well.

The Sussex County Department of Health, has advised that school districts consider a move to remote learning in the event that our status in fact moves from moderate to high risk. If this change in the risk factor occurs, it is probable that we will have to quickly pivot to remote learning in order to keep our school community safe. I understand the difficulty such a situation causes to families and wanted you to be made aware in advance if taking such an action becomes necessary. Decisions such as these are never made lightly.

Please know that the health and well-being of our students, staff and the entire school community are of the utmost importance to us. I will continue to keep you informed as this situation develops and additional data becomes available.

Sincerely,

Dennis Tobin  
Interim Superintendent of Schools