

EAST GREENWICH PUBLIC SCHOOLS



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November 19, 2020

Dear East Greenwich Families,

I write this evening with a District update after Governor Raimondo's announcement today regarding Rhode Island on Pause.

Current Rhode Island State-wide COVID-19 data has surpassed the metrics originally set by the State for opening schools. As expected, East Greenwich Public Schools has had some positive cases. In some of the cases, the district has asked individuals, small groups and even entire classrooms to teach and learn from home out of an abundance of caution. In a few cases there has been the need to quarantine students and staff by order of the Rhode Island Department of Health. However, we must also acknowledge the success of the health and safety strategies that were developed during the summer months and implemented when opening our schools. Our faculty, staff and students have followed our masking and distancing protocols. Daily cleaning and disinfection routines continue at all schools in the district. While COVID-19 is certainly present in our community and the State, we have no evidence at this time to suggest that our schools have served as a catalyst or environment where spread is occurring.

Today, Governor Raimondo established the new guidelines for the RI pause as a means to reduce the community spread and increasing infection rates. In her remarks, she indicated that districts had the option of reducing their high schools back to a limited reopening model. A limited in-person scenario allows for only 25% maximum enrollment at the high school level while prioritizing special populations. At this time, I remain confident in our health and safety protocols in our schools and do not see the need to recommend a change to our current plan. We will continue to monitor our situation, and will make any necessary adjustments based on our school population positivity/spread rates, and our ability to fully staff our building. Please do your part in helping to be sure our numbers stay low - if you travel or host a larger family gathering for the holiday then self-quarantine out of an abundance of caution.

Rhode Island on PAUSE		11/30 - 12/13
OPEN	LIMITED	CLOSED
IN-PERSON PreK-8 SCHOOL	IN-PERSON HIGH SCHOOL	IN-PERSON COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
CHILD CARE	SOCIAL GATHERINGS One household	OFFICES (WHEN POSSIBLE)
MANUFACTURING & CONSTRUCTION	INDOOR DINING 33% capacity, early closures, one household per table	BAR AREAS
PERSONAL SERVICES	RETAIL 1 person/100 sq. ft. (big box: 1 person/150 sq. ft.)	RECREATIONAL VENUES
HEALTH CARE	HOUSES OF WORSHIP 25% capacity (max of 125)	INDOOR SPORT FACILITIES, GYMS & GROUP FITNESS, ORGANIZED SPORTS (excludes NCAA & professional sports)

As a reminder, the District will follow the recommendation of the RIDOH with regard to travel outside of Rhode Island. If a student or staff member travels internationally or to a US state where the positivity of COVID-19 is greater than 5%, they must quarantine for 14 days. The Rhode Island Department of Health travel information can be found [here](#) and is updated regularly. The District will not accept a test in lieu of this requirement as it can take up to 14 days for the virus to develop. Quarantining for the recommended 14 days is the best way to reduce possible exposure in our school community. Students will engage in learning remotely during the 14-day quarantine period and will be marked as *Present- Remote* in our attendance system.

To say this 2020 school year has been a year like no other is an obvious understatement. But the truth is, we all have much to be thankful for as we head into next week. Our principals, faculty and staff, custodians, food service and transportation personnel, the technology team and so many more have all contributed so much to the continuation of teaching and learning. Additionally, our community has come together in the most remarkable manner to support the learning and well-being of students and show their respect and gratitude for the East Greenwich faculty and staff.

As always, I remain grateful for your support and understanding. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions or need further information.

Respectfully yours,

Alexis L. Meyer

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