

November 6, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Quincy Community Schools has made the tough decision to transition all students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade to virtual learning through Thanksgiving and plans to return to in person learning on November 30, 2020. In the past week we have seen a dramatic rise in COVID-19 cases in our area that has caused a significant amount of quarantines to take place. Quarantines occur when an individual is in close contact with another that has tested positive for COVID-19. Many times, those in close contact do not develop COVID-19 and the quarantine period, which is generally 14 days, is a precaution. However, in some cases those in close contact can develop symptoms. These cases of close contact with staff or students causing the quarantines so far have happened outside of the district.

Currently, Quincy Schools has 10 staff members that are quarantined. There is the possibility we may have 4 more staff members that may need to quarantine as well. Substitute teachers are very few this year and will not be able to cover all the open positions caused by the quarantines. Given this situation, the district has been forced to transition to virtual instruction for the next few weeks.

While we are conducting virtual classes, our maintenance and custodial group will be extensively deep cleaning our buildings to prepare for the return of students on November 30, 2020. Teachers will continue to use Google Classroom or the SeeSaw app as a home base for their instruction. Parents please be sure to work with your students and check their progress on a regular basis. Teachers will be operating from a schedule providing instruction and activities virtually throughout the week. If issues arise, please contact your student's teacher or school office. Counseling services are available in each building and food service will continue to provide meals as they have been doing since the start of the school year. Thank you for your patience and for working with us to make this a successful time. We all want nothing less than our students back at school for in person learning. Having to go virtual is not preferred by any of us but in these uncertain times with COVID-19 on the rise, it is the safest route for students and staff.

Sincerely,

Marc Kramer  
Superintendent, Quincy Community Schools