



DIGHTON-REHOBOTH
Regional School District
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T.E.A.M
(Together Everyone Achieves More)

December 15, 2020

Dear Families,

The weeks leading up to holiday break have been increasingly difficult due to the community spread of COVID-19. We have had to close school buildings and school programs because of the impact of the virus. Through data analysis and collaboration between our nursing staff and local Boards of Health, we have identified an increase in COVID related absences due to illness and mandated quarantine periods.

Because of a significant increase in staff absences due to COVID-19, we have made the difficult decision to transition to remote learning for all schools and programs beginning 12/16.

We have decided to extend our closure until January 8th. We will return to in-person learning on January 11th. Cohort A will again report on Mondays and Tuesdays; Cohort B will report on Thursdays and Fridays. We hope a full week of remote learning upon return from holiday break will provide a period of time for our local health agents to catch up on contact tracing and testing- critical interventions that have impacted the daily operation of our school buildings.

In a previous correspondence, I informed our district community that closing our schools would be necessary if a staffing shortage potentially impacts the safety of our students and staff. Unfortunately, after doing our best to think outside the box to cover staff shortages, we have hit that threshold in all schools.

During this closure, instruction will shift to full remote. Therefore, all student cohorts are expected to engage in remote learning from **12/16 to 12/23** and again from **1/4 to 1/8**. Attendance will be taken virtually.

Please continue to monitor your email and the district website (drregional.org) for important updates from district administration.

Please remember the following precautions are essential to keep our communities as safe possible:

To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, everyone should:

- Clean your hands often, either with soap and water for 20 seconds or a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Put distance between yourself and other people (at least 6 feet).

The mission of the Dighton-Rehoboth Regional School District, in partnership with parents and the community, is to provide students with the tools, including technology, to acquire knowledge, apply skills, critically analyze information and issues, and develop social responsibility.

Dighton-Rehoboth does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital status, veteran status, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or any other legally protected group.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces daily.
- CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings and when around people outside of their household, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Masks may help prevent people who have COVID-19 from spreading the virus to others.

We appreciate your flexibility and support during this difficult time.

Sincerely,
Dr. Anthony Azar

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