



GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

195 Federal Street, Suite 100, Greenfield, MA 01301

“Every Child’s Success is Our Mission”

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Jordana B. Harper, Superintendent of Schools

December 14, 2020

Dear Greenfield Public Schools Parents/Families, Students & Staff:

We write with an important health and safety update regarding COVID-19 in our community.

As you may be aware, Greenfield has recently experiencing a sharp increase in the rates of COVID-19 infection. Over the past several days and weeks, School and Public Health officials have closely watched this data and have taken additional precautions to continue in-person learning to the greatest extent possible. In addition, the Joint Labor-Management Health & Safety Team has convened any time the state data reflects a rise in Greenfield’s 14-day average case count, above 8 cases per 100,000 weeks. The most recent state data shows Greenfield’s 14-day average daily incidence rate at 28.32 cases per 100,000 and a 4.06% positivity rate. These troubling trends all reflect a change from the relatively low rates of COVID-19 infection we have seen in our community previously.

At this time, based on these new trends in the data, the Board of Health has voted to pause Phase 2 in-person learning in the Greenfield Public Schools, along with other city-wide public health actions, effective immediately. **Greenfield Public Schools is implementing this recommendation immediately, with a pause to Phase 2 in-person learning effective immediately.** At this time we anticipate that the pause will continue through at least January 8, 2020 (one week after the scheduled December break.) We will continue to evaluate the new COVID-19 data as well as the recommendations of public health officials and the City of Greenfield during this time, and will continue to keep you informed.

We sincerely regret any inconvenience and disruption caused by this recommendation, however, we believe it is in the best interest of the students, staff, families and broader community to follow the public health recommendations for our community at this time. A public School Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, 12/16 at 6pm at which point the COVID-19 data will be reviewed and appropriate health & safety measures will be discussed by the Committee.

As always, we remain committed to the health and well-being of our students, staff, and the community, and will continue to provide high-quality remote learning to all students during the pause of in-person instruction. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jordana Harper, Superintendent of Schools & Jennifer Hoffman, M.P.H, Interim Health Director

For additional information, please visit:

- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-response-reporting#covid-19-weekly-public-health-report>
- <https://greenfield-ma.gov/p/2931/COVID-19-Info>

The Greenfield Public Schools is committed to maintaining a discrimination-free environment for all students, families, and employees. Greenfield Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer.