



CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISCOVER YOUR NEW HEIGHTS

TOM TALKS | September 11, 2020



Dear Cuyahoga Heights School District
Families,

I hope this letter finds you all well. We have started the school year remotely this week. I appreciate the efforts of everyone in the Cuyahoga Heights School community as we continue to navigate the pandemic. I understand this is difficult for everyone;

remote learners, families and educators. No decision has been made in a vacuum and every decision that has been made has drawn praise and criticism.

This has been the most trying time for educators, students and families we have ever faced. A question I am frequently asked is what is the indicator to determine when students are able to return to school. I wish a single indicator existed. I have been in continuous contact with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for the past two months. CCBOH has been very supportive and very responsive and has provided sound medical advice for our district. For that I am grateful.

To date the CCBOH has been providing focuses on seven different areas; positivity rates, new cases, percent used of adult medical beds, percent used of critical care beds, percent used of pediatric medical beds, percent used of ventilators and the public health advisory system. The County remains at Level 2: Orange. The good news is that there has been a decreasing trend in the data over the past three weeks.

We have had no documented cases in our school district since the start of school and currently have three students quarantined due to a family members positive tests. Our School Nurse has been trained to contact trace and that combined with the safety protocols we have in place, has minimized the occurrence of the virus spread. I am confident that our safety protocols will continue to be highly effective.

We are continuing to analyze the data and rely upon the expertise of our health department. If the data continues to hold this pattern, I anticipate a return to school for students in a hybrid in-person model before the end of the first quarter. Students that wish to remain online will be able to do so. Plans for that scenario are currently in process.

This is all subject to change as we move forward. We will not only utilize the data from CCBOH but will also continue to monitor data relative to our school district. Everyone's patience, kindness and cooperation has been greatly appreciated as we have worked through the many obstacles this situation has created.

GO HEIGHTS!!!!

Tom Evans
Superintendent
Cuyahoga Heights Schools

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