



## Dennis-Yarmouth Regional School District

296 Station Avenue, South Yarmouth, MA 02664

Phone: (508) 398-7600 Fax: (508) 398-7622

December 14, 2020

Dear DY Families and Staff,

On Wednesday, December 16 it will be three months since we opened our schools for in-person learning. We appreciate your help and support in keeping our schools open for our students. While we have had some cases of students or staff members with COVID, we have not seen spread within our schools. We attribute this in large part to our school-based protocols for contact tracing and closing individual classrooms as cases arise.

Now we are seeing increases in community spread throughout the Cape. The CDC has published a document that provides us with indicators and thresholds for determining the impact of community spread on school transmission of COVID-19. Unfortunately, the current amount of community spread puts our schools in the higher to highest risk for in school transmission. The problem we are beginning to see is that if the current trends continue we may not have enough staff to cover in-person classes and families will run the risk of being sick over the school vacation and/or spreading the illness to other family members.

In addition, if you have been watching the weather reports, as I am prone to do this time of year, you know that there is a high likelihood that we will have a significant snowstorm on Thursday, December 17. The weather report I received this morning is predicting 4-6 inches of snow and winds of 40-45 miles per hour beginning at 10:00 pm on Wednesday. The confidence level of this report is at medium right now that the impact for our area will be significant.

So with seven school days left before the holiday break, we have decided that both these factors warrant a plan that will help our families and staff to make arrangements in advance rather than react to what could be the inevitable. This is our plan:

- We will continue with in-person learning on Tuesday (12/15) and Wednesday (12/16).
- On Thursday (12/17) we will use one of our saved professional development days to give teachers a day to prepare for remote learning. **The students will have a "snow day" on Thursday-no school!**
- Then on Friday (12/18) and Monday-Wednesday (12/21-12/23) our students will all work remotely with their teachers.
- We will plan to be back in school in person on 1/4/21, if all goes well.

Thank you for your understanding during these challenging times. We believe this plan allows you to arrange for your students to be home, but only for a short time. It also allows us to minimize a possible spike in school-based COVID cases keeping your family and our staff healthy.

Best wishes always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Woodbury".

Carol A. Woodbury  
Superintendent of Schools