

December 19, 2020

Dear Manhasset Families,

Yesterday afternoon, the District was notified that two Secondary School students tested positive for COVID-19 after attending a large party last weekend that included many other Manhasset students. For the safety of our students and their families it is imperative that any student who attended this party get tested for COVID-19 regardless of their symptoms as soon as possible.

After consultation with the Department of Health and medical professionals, we have made the difficult decision to transition our Secondary School to remote instruction beginning Monday, December 21 through Wednesday, December 23. This decision was made out of an abundance of caution to limit the spread of COVID-19 following this social gathering. Please note the following information pertaining to these three days:

- The Secondary School will follow the traditional bell schedule.
- A free breakfast and free lunch meal will be available for pickup for all Secondary School students at the Secondary School cafeteria extension from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Students who attend BOCES/vocational programs will continue to receive transportation to these programs.
- All in-person after school activities are canceled.

While unintentional, events like this generate a great deal of fear and anxiety among families, students, and staff. Please be reminded that large social gatherings impact the entire school community and our ability to deliver instruction in-person. Therefore, we continue to stress the importance of limiting social gatherings, wearing masks, social distancing, and healthy hand hygiene habits. Following these protocols in and out of school will help to limit the spread of COVID-19 and help our schools to remain open.

At this time, the only building impacted is the Secondary School. We will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in our other school buildings daily and will act accordingly should we see an increase in positive cases.

Please note the **accurate** completion of the Cleared4Class daily health screening attestation is an essential tool in our ability to maintain a safe environment for our students and staff. Parents must accurately complete the Cleared4Class health screening attestation on a daily basis even when their children are attending school remotely. This is of significant importance in light of the large gathering that took place last Saturday and will assist us in determining how many more cases develop as a result.

We anticipate a full return to in-person instruction on Monday, January 4, 2021. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or your child's building principal.

Thank you for your continued understanding and support as we work together to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vincent Butera

Superintendent of Schools