



# PORT WASHINGTON Union Free School District

MICHAEL J. HYNES, Ed.D. 516-767-5005

Superintendent

MARY M. CALLAHAN 516-767-5010  
Assistant Superintendent for Business, District Clerk

CHRISTOPHER B. SHIELDS, Ed.D. 516-767-5050  
Assistant Superintendent for General Administration

ELAINE FENICK 516-767-5050  
Human Resources Administrator

DAVID MEOLI, Ed.D. 516-767-5040  
Interim Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum,  
Instruction and Assessment

Administration Building  
100 Campus Drive, Port Washington, NY 11050  
FAX 516-767-5007

April 13, 2021

Dear Port Washington Community,

Last Friday evening, the NYS Department of Health updated its [guidance](#) for in-person instruction to align primarily with new guidelines put out by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in March.

I am disheartened to share with you that as a result, the district's "All-In" plan—which incorporated a set target return date for all students at Schreiber and Weber this month—is temporarily on hold because of Nassau County's current designation as a red zone by the [CDC](#).

The updated guidance recommends physical distancing requirements dependent on grade level. In middle and high schools, three feet between students in classrooms is recommended only when schools can incorporate a cohort model. When schools cannot maintain cohorting, middle and high schools must maintain physical distancing of at least six feet between students in classrooms. For the remainder of this week, Schreiber and Weber will conduct in-person learning for students on Wednesday (April 14), Thursday (April 15) and Friday (April 16). On Monday (April 19), both schools will resume their hybrid instructional models.

Fortunately, the updated guidelines permit three feet or more social distancing in elementary schools at all zone designations. Therefore, while Nassau County is designated a red zone, we can maintain our current elementary instructional model.

We are reaching out to our legislators at the county and state levels to gain more clarity and advocate for what our children need and deserve. In the meantime, please note we will discuss our "All-In" plan at the secondary levels and ensure that community comments can take place at our April 20<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting.

The district will continue to monitor the positivity rate in the county and Port community as we look forward to the time we will be able to proceed with our "All-In" plan and welcome all of our students back safely.

Stay safe. Be well.

Michael J. Hynes, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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