



Union County Educational Services Commission

45 Cardinal Drive
Westfield, New Jersey 07090
Phone: 908-233-9317
Fax: 908-233-7432
Transportation Fax: 908-518-1669

Michael J. Kowalski
Acting Superintendent
mkowalski@ucesc.org

Eric Larson
Business Administrator/
Board Secretary
elarson@ucesc.org

Lorraine Vitiello
Transportation Coordinator
lvitiello@ucesc.org

January 15, 2021

Dear UCESC Parents and Guardians:

I hope this letter finds you and your family well as we begin a much-anticipated new year.

While the public health emergency continues to alter our lives in unimaginable ways, I am most optimistic that 2021 will bring improved health, positivity, and the gradual return to familiar circumstances.

As planned, we look forward to welcoming back students in our special education schools and programs on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. The decision to return was based on a review of the current health data and guided by consultations with the Elizabeth, Scotch Plains and Westfield Regional Health Departments.

Regarding our alternative high school programs at Hillcrest Academy - North and South Campuses, students will continue to engage in remote learning while we await guidance from Elizabeth Public Schools on the timeline for progressing to the next phase of their district restart plan.

All schools and programs will follow existing hybrid cohort schedules as our administrative team continues to explore options for increasing classroom instruction within current State guidelines and restrictions. I applaud their ongoing dedication and equally commend our teachers and support staff for their resilience, creativity, and commitment to providing your children with meaningful learning opportunities.

In speaking with public health officials, I was strongly urged to remain vigilant in our strict adherence to health protocols while the County and State continues to experience high rates of COVID-19 transmission. I ask for your full cooperation in keeping your child home when sick and notifying your school immediately to report out of state travel, potential exposures or close contacts, or positive COVID-19 test results.

On January 8, the New Jersey Department of Health also released updated guidance indicating that children who demonstrate COVID-19 compatible symptoms should not return to school until they receive a negative viral COVID-19 test (molecular or antigen) OR they have completed an isolation period of 10 days since symptom onset and at least 24 hours after resolution of fever without fever reducing medication.

After consulting with our Board Physician, I determined that it serves the interest of the health and safety of our students and staff to adopt these guidelines effective immediately. I ask that you review the attached Student Health Attestation Form and indicate your agreement by Wednesday, January 20, 2021 by returning a copy to your child's school or responding online at: <https://forms.gle/RmpQdCBKujwGgUjW9>

On behalf of our staff, I thank you for your ongoing flexibility and support. Even more so, I thank you for entrusting us with your child and being a part of the Union County ESC learning community.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's school or my office with any questions. We are here to help.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Kowalski
Acting Superintendent



Union County Educational Services Commission

COVID-19 Student Health Attestation

2020 – 2021 School Year

January 13, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Union County Educational Services Commission continues to implement enhanced health and safety protocols to ensure positive learning environments for students, staff, and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In order to assist with our efforts, we ask all parents and guardians to indicate their agreement with the following revised procedures for daily school admittance reflecting current guidance from the NJ Department of Health and the Westfield Regional Health Department:

Parent/Guardian Attestations:

1. I will send my child to school with an appropriate face covering on a daily basis.
2. I will make arrangements for my child to be picked-up from school in a timely manner and comply with recommendations for school readmittance as directed by the Principal and/or School Nurse.
3. I will keep my child home and immediately contact the School Nurse when my child:
 - a. Demonstrates any of the following COVID-19 compatible symptoms:
 - i. Fever (100.4° F or greater)
 - ii. Difficulty Breathing or Shortness of Breath
 - iii. Cough, Congestion or Sore Throat
 - iv. Loss of Taste or Smell
 - v. Nausea, Vomiting or Diarrhea
 - vi. Headache or Muscle Ache
 - b. Experiences any of the following potential exposures to COVID-19 within the past-14 days:
 - i. Your child or a member of your immediate household tested positive for COVID-19 or are currently demonstrating COVID-19 compatible symptoms.
 - ii. Your child or a member of your immediate household came into close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for 15 minutes during a 24-hour period) with a person who tested positive for COVID-19 or who is demonstrating COVID-19 compatible-symptoms
 - iii. Your child or a member of your immediate household was advised to self-isolate or self-quarantine by a medical professional or public health official with the past 14-days.
 - iv. Your child or a member of your immediate household traveled to any U.S. State or territory beyond the immediate region (New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, and Delaware).

I certify that I am the legal parent or guardian of the above-named student and I have read and fully understand this Health Attestation and agree with its terms.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Name of Parent/Guardian

Relationship