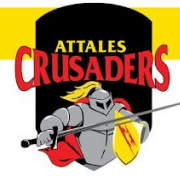




## ABSECON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dr. Daniel J. Dooley  
Superintendent of Schools

Tina Maruca  
Business Administrator

Dr. Shelly Ward Richards, Principal  
H.Ashton Marsh Elementary School

Lindsay Reed  
Director of Special Services/Curriculum

Kevin Burns, Principal  
Emma C. Attales Middle School

RE: Covid-19 Update

December 1, 2020

Absecon Learning Community,

Congratulations to the faculty and staff at THE ABSECON SCHOOL DISTRICT for remaining one of a few schools in Atlantic County, and throughout the state, that: opened on time, has remained open, and is not currently scheduled to close in the immediate future. Our success is a tribute to our learning community's devotion and love for the children of Absecon.

With that said, Atlantic County, along with the entire state, has recently been upgraded to the NJ Health Department's rating of Orange/High Risk on the Covid-19 Activity Level Index (CALI). As the CALI index rises, more precautions, provisions, and mandates are put into place that school districts must follow; please view:

[https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts\\_K12Schools.pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/documents/topics/NCOV/RecommendationsForLocalHealthDepts_K12Schools.pdf)

In review of the linked information, specifically the mandates regarding **face masks only** (exclusion of neck gaiters or other related face coverings), Exclusion Criteria (pg. 12) and School Closures (pg. 15), in conjunction with the trend of school closures in our area and beyond, I have tasked my administrative team to prepare for scenarios, out of our control, that would necessitate a school short-term and/or extended school closure. As always, all decisions would be made in consultation with and under the direction of the Atlantic County Health Department.

Although Absecon will continue to service our students and our community in every capacity, we want to continue to be ahead of the curve and prepared for every obstacle that could potentially come our way. Over the next few days, your child's principal will distribute a detailed plan on changes, procedures, and expectations if our district is forced to go remote for any given amount of time.

Thank you,

Dr. Daniel J. Dooley  
Proud Superintendent,  
Absecon Public Schools

[www.abseconschools.org](http://www.abseconschools.org)