



ABSECON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Kevin Burns, Principal
Emma C. Attales Middle School

December 17, 2020

Dear Absecon Family Members,

I am writing to continue our stream of informed communication and to provide you with an update to our plans. First, I'd like to acknowledge the efforts of our staff and our community in collaboratively developing a reopening plan that maximizes learning opportunities for our students without ever sacrificing safety for all. Through implementation of our plan, we have proudly remained one of the few school districts who continue to provide in-person learning within Atlantic County; and that is a testament to your collective actions as a learning community.

Today, we received notice of a positive COVID-19 test result of a staff member who has a broad scope of responsibilities within the district. This, combined with five staff members currently identified as close contacts of a positive person who is not associated with the district, has created an environment that is no longer deemed optimal within the health and safety standards we've established.

Unfortunately, despite our best efforts to proactively address and remediate any threats to the health of our learning community, we are not immune to the impact of COVID-19. Through collaboration with our stakeholders, and the driving force of recommendations from the Atlantic County Department of Health, we must postpone in-person learning for a brief period of time. **Effective December 18, 2020, the Absecon School District will close our doors to in-person learning through January 3, 2021. Instruction will continue virtually from December 18th through December 23rd. We anticipate welcoming our staff and students back into our schools as scheduled on January 4, 2021.**

The health and safety of our students and staff members remains our top priority, and we will continue to act out of an abundance of caution and remain steadfast in our efforts to provide learning opportunities within our schools. Join us today at 3:00pm for a question and answer session if you would like more information. (Meet Code: meet.google.com/bei-tacv-szd)

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Dooley, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools