

Branchburg Township School District



February 18, 2021
District Update

Hybrid Learning

A Hybrid Learning format includes:

- Specific class periods with attendance required ✓
- Revised curriculum to insure coverage of grade level standards ✓
- Tutorial periods to assist students with learning gaps ✓
- Revised grading practices ✓
- Increase in live classes ✓
- Restructuring recorded classes ✓
- **Opportunities for some students and some teachers to be present on some days.** ✓
- **Revision of lunch schedules to reduce cafeteria access** ✗
- **Insure equity and access** ✓
- **Synchronous and asynchronous teaching** ✓

Return to School

A return to school will mean:

- All Health and Safety considerations are paramount ✓
- Safety protocols, as determined by the Department of Health are in place ✓
- Policies and procedures developed for students and staff who need to remain isolated due to underlying health conditions ✓
- Allocation of resources to address well being of staff and students ✓
- Modifications of classroom, school bus, and cafeteria seating configurations based on social distancing guidelines ✓

Current Status

(Somerset County Dept. of Health)

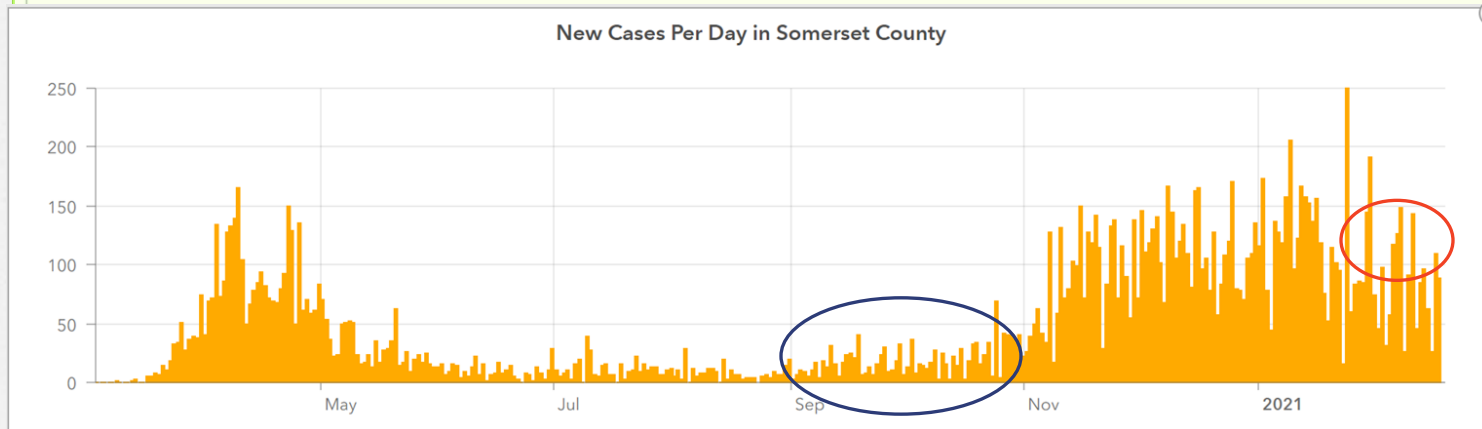
- Central West Region is “Yellow” (Hunterdon, Mercer, Somerset)
- Somerset County is “Orange” – high rates of COVID Activity
- Branchburg is “Red” – Critical rates of COVID Activity

Current Status

(Somerset County Dept. of Health)

- The percent of positive cases in Somerset County and Branchburg is slightly higher now than when we opened school in September.

- Week of September 8 66 Positive Cases
- Week of February 14 286 Positive Cases



CDC Guidance for Schools

February 12, 2021

“Regardless of the level of community transmission, it is critical that schools use layered mitigation strategies”

1. Universal and correct use of masks
2. Physical Distancing
3. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
4. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
5. Contact Tracing

CDC Guidance for Schools

Schools providing in-person instruction should prioritize two mitigation strategies:

1. Universal and correct use of masks
2. Physical Distancing (at least 6 feet) should be maximized to the greatest extent possible. In hybrid instruction, scheduling should be planned to ensure physical distancing.

NJDOH Guidelines

Very High Risk – Red – Recommend fully remote learning

High Risk – Orange – Consider implementing fully remote learning

Moderate Risk – Yellow – Consider a mixture of remote and/or hybrid learning approaches, and/or fully remote learning.

Changes Since September

- Whiton students able to attend 5 days per week, single session
- SBS and BCMS students have option for extending their day if they are struggling to maintain their afternoon learning. Will soon be adding Wednesday instruction.
- Students who are not meeting academic requirements have been returned to 4 days of in-school learning
- Guidance Counselors have been assisting students who are struggling with their well-being
- Increased “live” instructional time
- Opportunity for clubs at all schools to help with connections to students

Next Steps

- Pandemic Response Team meeting on Tuesday (Board of Education Members, Administrators, Teachers, and Parents)
- Look to increase in school time while maintaining safety protocols
- Look to more directly support the mental health needs of our students
- Request for parent input for ideas and solutions