



Script of Dr. Block's December 4, 2020 Video Message

Hello Livingston Public Schools Community, this is Matt Block, Superintendent of Schools. I hope this message finds everyone well and safe.

First, I want to begin by recognizing some of the positive things that are happening in the district. I would like to congratulate our Speech and Debate Team at Livingston High School. The team has won multiple awards and accolades in their first two competitions of the year, and they are on their way to accomplishing even more great things. Congratulations to our drama department for their outstanding recent outdoor, socially distant production of *Oedipus and Antigone*...Bravo!. This week I had the pleasure of attending the LHS World Language Honor Society induction ceremony, which highlighted the tremendous language skills of our students. Congratulations to all of the inductees. I also want to recognize all of our student athletes and coaches, as the fall sports season just came to a close last week. Just being able to have a sports season this year was something to be proud of. Thank you to everyone who helped make the season happen.

Yesterday, we received our usual weekly COVID Regional Risk Matrix from the New Jersey Department of Health, which, again, designated the entire state as "Orange" or "High Risk." As I informed our community when our region moved to this designation on November 19th, this means that we have to quarantine all COVID-19 positive individuals and their contacts, AND treat symptomatic individuals as presumed positives, quarantining those people and their contacts as well. Despite the increased requirements for quarantines issued by the New Jersey Department of Health, I am proud that we opened our elementary schools this week, and I am happy to announce that our secondary schools are on track to reopen for in person learning on Monday.

In light of the DOH's increased quarantine mandate, it is more essential now than ever that students not come to school if they are not feeling well, that families cooperate with our nurses who are contact tracing, and that everyone practices healthy habits when not in school. **Please** do not send a child to school if he or she is symptomatic, **please** provide information to our contact tracers about positive cases, and **please** get tested for COVID-19 if you or your child are symptomatic. These steps will directly help to keep our schools open for in-person instruction. If we learn that our contact tracers are not getting the information they need to keep our schools safe and healthy, if students come to school with symptoms, and if individuals are not getting tested when they don't feel well, this will likely require us to go all remote again.

Overall, our current case count is still relatively low, and transmission in school remains rare. Help us limit the number of people we need to quarantine, and help us stay open for in person learning. We can only do so by working together.

Thank you for your partnership and have a relaxing weekend.