



November 16, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you know, we have been closely monitoring COVID-19 cases in our high school since being notified of positive cases on the girls basketball team, marching band, and swim team at the end of last week. We were notified of another positive case today that was traced to the tennis banquet and powderpuff game that also occurred last week. Because of contact tracing and the sheer numbers we are dealing with, we are looking at quarantining well over 100 students. **For the protection of those students who have not been affected and our staff, we feel it is best to err on the side of caution and have the high school go 100% virtual starting tomorrow, Tuesday November 16 until Tuesday, December 1.** By that date, all students will have had the opportunity to quarantine and/or get well, and we will be able to track any additional cases. All athletics and activities that have not been a part of quarantining will also be allowed to continue.

This morning, I participated in a meeting with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Allegheny County Health Department. They wanted to notify all superintendents in the county that, for the first time since July, the county was considered in the “substantial” category for community transmission. Their recommendation is that after two consecutive weeks of falling within “substantial,” schools should strongly consider going virtual. It is highly likely that we will be notified this Friday that Allegheny County is once again in the substantial category for the second week in a row. As of today, we have zero active student cases in our K-8 schools. As long as we continue to have success with mitigating and tracing the cases that we have in the future, we have no intentions of changing anything in those buildings moving forward. If at any time we see a situation develop, we will certainly be proactive like we are at the high school right now.

It is our belief that kids are safer in school than outside of school as a result of all of the mitigation steps that we are taking, and they are always wearing face coverings. We know that being in school is definitely what is best for their learning and mental health. We are committed to doing what is best for our students and keeping them in school, but can only be successful with everyone’s cooperation. I implore everyone to please

wear a face covering, practice physical distancing, and stay home with any symptoms. Thank you in advance for your continued support and cooperation. If you have any further questions or concerns I can be reached at (412) 655-8450 ext 2230 or [mghilani@wjhsd.net](mailto:mghilani@wjhsd.net).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Ghilani". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Ghilani" clearly distinguishable.

Dr. Michael Ghilani  
Superintendent of Schools