

THOMAS ANDERSON
SUPERINTENDENT

December 15, 2020

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Dear New Bedford Public Schools Families, Staff and Students:

I want to provide you with a brief update as we continue to navigate the challenges of this pandemic to help keep those around us safe. For the last several months we have been working to ensure families are informed of the most up-to-date information as we collectively work to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We continue to collaborate with the New Bedford Department of Public Health, the Mass. Department of Health and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to implement our health and safety guidelines.

Over the last few weeks staff and student absences have increased for a variety reasons including waiting for COVID test results and/or quarantining because of being a close contact of someone who tested positive. This is impacting our ability to effectively deliver instruction and engage in the teaching and learning process. To assist, we are temporarily shifting to our full distance learning model for next week, December 21 - 23, 2020 and the week of January 4 – 8, 2021.

- **Monday (December 21), Tuesday (December 22) and Wednesday (December 23):** ALL students in Cohorts A, B and C will participate in the distance learning platform and there will be no in-person classes. There will be no changes for Cohort D students.
 - Please contact your teacher if you have questions regarding your schedule for next week.
- **January 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8:** will be Distance Learning Days for ALL students (including Cohort A) – there will be no in-person learning on these days.
- **January 11, 2021:** our current NBPS Hybrid model resumes with in-person learning for Cohort A (5-days). Cohorts B and C resume their 2-day in-person/3-day distance schedule. Cohort D students remain fully in the Distance. Learning Academy.

I wanted to share this information as soon as possible to allow more time for our parents/guardians to plan for any childcare needs. Also, our high school athletic program will continue as scheduled during this time. Individual coaches will discuss the after-school practice times. Your continued understanding, support and patience is appreciated while we fight these challenging circumstances.

Please review [MA Department of Public Health](#) and visit our website [New Bedford Public Schools](#) for more information.

Sincerely,

Thomas Anderson
Superintendent