



# HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Dora L. Stutler,  
*Superintendent*

January 8, 2021

Dear Harrison County Families and Employees,

Over the holidays, Governor Jim Justice announced that all students would continue on remote learning for the first two weeks of January and recommended that students return to a five-day schedule on January 19. Since the announcement, Harrison County has received much input from our community members regarding concerns about a return to full-time instruction. We have also received requests to follow the new guidelines. I would like to acknowledge all of the received input and let you know that Harrison County is listening. I also wish to acknowledge the daily information received from the Harrison County Health Department and will continue to make informed decisions in consultation with them.

Our intent is to take a cautious and gradual approach to resuming normal, five-day instruction. We understand the need for students to be in the classroom. Everyone agrees that there is no substitute for face-to-face instruction. With that being said, we also understand the need to keep our students and employees safe and healthy. We have over 1500 employees and 10,000 students in this county, and the safety of these individuals is our number one concern. As with many communities, we have grandparents raising our students, employees and students in high-risk categories, and have witnessed the effects of Covid on our families and schools. I understand that opinions will vary, but we have to err on the side of caution.

Some vaccines are being rolled out in Harrison County this week to our employees, so there is hope on the horizon. I am looking forward to a lower transmission rate and better trending numbers in the future. Community transmission rates are currently at their highest levels yet since the pandemic began. Because of this, Harrison County's plan for reopening will be as follows:

Beginning Friday, January 15, Harrison County Schools will continue to watch the WVDHHR map color and work with our health department to announce the instructional plan for the following week. If our county is red or orange, all students will be in remote instruction. If our county is gold or yellow, we will follow our current two-day blended model. If our county is green, students will be in school five days the following week. Announcements will be made on a weekly basis, and families will be notified every Friday evening about the next school week. At the time all employees who have had the opportunity to be vaccinated, regardless of the map color, we will immediately move to a normal five-day schedule.

Harrison County appreciates the support received from our community, and would like to express unity during these difficult times. Decisions being made right now are not easy ones and multiple factors and opinions have been considered. Nothing is perfect. We are hopeful that the spread of COVID 19 will diminish over the next few weeks, the vaccine continues to roll out, and that we can get back to some normalcy.

Thank you,

Dora L. Stutler, Superintendent  
Harrison County Schools

*Harrison County Schools...where all are leaders and all are learners!*