

Please read this message in its entirety. There is important information for all employees, students, and families enrolled in Jeffco Public Schools.

Dear Jeffco Public Schools students, families, employees, and community,

As we wrote to you last night, Colorado is in the midst of its most significant surge in COVID-19 cases since the onset of the pandemic. Jefferson County and Jeffco Public Schools are feeling the impact and our trend data indicates that new cases and the need for quarantines will continue to increase in the coming weeks.

The district leadership team and I closely monitor both our own [dashboard](#) and local public health databases, and we do our own contact tracing and communications through our outstanding Health Services Department. We are in regular contact with officials at Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) to assess current conditions and predictions about future virus trends in our community. The data shows unrelenting increases in COVID-19 cases and none of the public health officials forecast a significant reduction in those rates in the weeks ahead.

Given these trends and predictions, along with the County's move on Monday, November 9 to a Level Orange: High Risk on the [Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment](#) Dial Framework, future quarantine activity is likely to increase and send more of our schools into 24-48 hour closures or transitions to full remote learning on short notice. The growth in positive cases overall increases the risk that we'll have more incidents of transmission within schools.

Simply put, we've now reached the point at which the benefits of in-person learning are outweighed by the disruption caused by abrupt transitions to quarantines and by the risk of COVID-19 exposures within our buildings. Today, we consulted with JCPH and they concurred with that assessment. Accordingly, we will take the following steps:

1. Beginning Monday, November 16 we will transition to full remote learning for grades 6-12.

As scheduled, Friday, November 13 will be an asynchronous learning and transition day to enable school-based staff time to plan for the transition and communicate their schedules and details with families. Students will be expected to log in for attendance and participate in asynchronous learning activities as usual. This day should also be used for students to catch up on work, organize their home work spaces, and get ready for full remote learning.

- Students will be directed by their school as to when and how they will be able to collect their belongings, materials, technology, etc.
- All 6th - 12th grade students should be ready for full remote learning beginning Monday, November 16.
- During remote learning, students will participate in synchronous learning Monday through Thursday, and Fridays will be synchronous or asynchronous learning days as determined by your school (see your school's bell schedule).
- **Classes will continue remotely until winter break** at which point we will re-evaluate to determine if we can return to in-person learning safely or need to continue with remote learning in January.
- **We are letting you know in advance of making this change to provide as much time as possible for both families and our school-based staff to plan, prepare, and communicate.**

2. Elementary schools (K-5) will continue with 100% in-person learning through Thursday, November 19 and then transition to full remote learning beginning November 30.

- **Friday, November 20** will change to a non-student-contact day to enable school-based staff time to plan for the transition and communicate their schedules and details with families.
- During remote learning, students will participate in synchronous learning Monday through Thursday, and Fridays will be synchronous or asynchronous learning days as determined by your school.
- **Classes will continue remotely until winter break** at which point we will re-evaluate to determine if we can return to in-person learning safely or need to continue with remote learning.
- **We are letting you know in advance of making this change to provide as much time as possible for both families and our school-based staff to plan, prepare, and communicate.**

3. Preschool

Jeffco preschools will remain 100% in-person. The district will maintain support for all preschool classrooms. If parents would like to transition to remote learning during this time, please call the preschool office at (303) 982-1737.

4. District childcare will continue in-person

Full-day childcare options will be available through our existing School Age Enrichment (SAE) programs at consolidated sites. New enrollees will be accepted based on space available. Please go to [this website](#) or call (303) 982-1741 for more information on this program. Some of our schools also provide childcare options through private providers in our buildings. Please contact your provider for more information. For additional childcare providers in Jefferson County, please learn more about options on the [Colorado Shines](#) website. This site provides comprehensive childcare options throughout Jefferson County. Please see more detailed information in the FAQs section below.

5. In-person learning for students with significant disabilities will continue

Special Education students with significant needs who have demonstrated an inability to access remote instruction may have the option to do some level of in-person learning. Schools, teachers, and district staff will work with these families directly. Elementary level students will transition to 4 days a week, Monday through Thursday. Middle and high school students will continue with a 4-day-a-week model. These students will also continue to receive transportation services if eligible. More information will be provided directly to these families and students from their schools.

6. Certain Career & Technical Education (CTE) programs will continue in-person

CTE programs will be evaluated to determine which courses and programs require in-person learning and to what extent. Additional communication will come from the school/program, including Warren Tech.

7. Central office and operational staff will either continue in-person or transition to remote work depending on their responsibilities or as directed by their supervisor

Human Resources and JESPA leadership are working collaboratively to identify solutions which keep school-based support staff working during transitions and in different models. More information will be provided directly to any impacted employees, central or school-based, next week.

8. Additional training and support for educators

Training is available beginning today as we prepare for this transition to remote learning. All educators are encouraged to participate in this training. More information is provided in the #TeamJeffco Briefing today.

At-a-glance:

Safer at Home Level Orange: High Risk*

- 100% Remote learning for grades K-12
 - Grades 6-12 begin Remote Learning Monday, November 16 and continuing through winter break
 - Grades K-5 begin Remote Learning Monday, November 30 continuing through winter break
- In-person learning grades K-12 for students with significant disabilities (transition to 4 days a week Mon-Thurs for elementary, continue 4 days a week for middle and high school)
- In-person learning for students in some CTE programs
- In-person and remote learning options for preschool
- Childcare options will be available
- Remote learning option for all students
- Season A CHSAA sanctioned activities may continue through the end of their season
- No spectators allowed for athletics and extracurricular activities as determined by public health order from JCPH October 30, 2020
- Food distribution sites will continue for all students
- Technical and internet support is available for all students and staff through our remote learning helpline 303-982-3438

Families will hear more specifics on remote learning plans from their school and teachers directly. Please watch for those communications. Families who attend charter schools will also hear more information from their schools.

We know that this is not the news any of us wanted to hear. We must keep the health and wellness of our community as our collective priority. We understand this is extremely disappointing especially to our students; however, we must also do our part to slow the spread of this virus.

We will be evaluating the situation closely and make any modifications, extensions, or return to in-person learning decisions as the progress or reduction of COVID-19 case counts indicate. As we have stated from the beginning, our goal is to offer as much in-person learning as safely as possible in alignment with public health guidance. Our sincere hope is that we will be able to return to in-person learning for all students after winter break. Communication regarding a potential timeline to return our students to in-person learning will be sent to Jeffco families and staff during winter break. It will take our community working together to reduce the spread of this virus.

Please wear a mask, wash your hands frequently, maintain social distancing, avoid large gatherings at all times, stay home as much as possible especially when sick, and support each other with kindness and grace.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and for supporting our 14,000 #TeamJeffco employees and our students through this challenging time. As a community that loves our schools, we are better together.

Kristopher Schuh
Interim Superintendent
Jeffco Public Schools

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What happens now?

Students who are currently in an in-person or hybrid learning model will attend school as usual the rest of this week. Staff will have time to prepare their remote teaching environment and plan for remote lessons and student engagement. Schools will be communicating with their students and families about specific plans and schedules.

What is expected of my student in remote learning? What will remote learning look like?

Review this [RestartJeffco webpage](#) for details and information about many areas of education and remote learning, as well as family resources for academic and enrichment activities and health and wellness support.

What happens on Monday, November 16 for 6-12 grade students?

Schools will be communicating specific plans with students and families. On Monday, November 16, students should expect to engage in synchronous learning based on the school's schedule. Attendance is taken on all days during remote learning - see the [RestartJeffco webpage](#) and specific communications from your school.

How can I get assistance with internet service or a device?

Please reach out to your school directly for any questions or concerns about internet access or devices specific to your student's learning situation. Additionally, technical support for students using Jeffco devices and applications is available on our technical resources [webpage](#) and through our Remote Learning Helpline 303-982-3438.

Can I still get meal/food service?

Yes, just like we had in the spring during all remote learning, our Grab & Go food distribution sites will be open. For more information about locations and hours see [our website](#) and the bottom of every e-newsletter.

What about athletics and activities?

At this time, athletics and certain activities will continue with the "no spectator" rule in place in order to allow teams to end their seasons through December 5. This will hold unless the state announces a public health order moving Colorado to Stay at Home or there is a decision by CHSAA to end the seasons for all athletic teams.

Why shift grades K-12 at Level Orange: High Risk?

- In Level Orange, Jeffco Public Schools must use a more restrictive quarantining process. With this process, the likelihood of frequent transitions between remote and hybrid models due to quarantining is high.
- Increased case numbers, outbreaks and quarantinings are significantly disruptive to the teaching and learning process.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19? Where can I get tested for COVID-19?

Please see the [Jeffco Public Health website](#) for information about COVID-19 symptoms and local testing facilities.

What will happen with childcare in school buildings?

SAE (School Aged Enrichment) will offer fee-based childcare for students at five consolidated sites across our district (Lukas Elementary, VanArsdale Elementary, Kyffin Elementary, Shaffer Elementary, and Blue Heron Elementary).

- Students can attend these locations from 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
- Enrollment preference will be given to families that are currently enrolled in any SAE program across Jeffco Public Schools. There are additional spots available. For families interested in enrolling in SAE to have childcare at any of these sites during remote learning, please see [this website](#) or call (303) 982-

1741. Newly enrolled families will be accepted based on available space in the program and completion of the enrollment process.

- For schools that currently contract with another private provider for childcare, please contact your provider to understand their childcare options.
- For external providers in Jefferson County, please learn more about options on the [Colorado Shines](#) website. This site provides comprehensive childcare options throughout Jefferson County.