

November 3, 2020

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

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we navigate these challenging times together. By remaining vigilant with our virus mitigation protocols, we are doing our part to slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community and to keep our schools open and safe.

Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) issued a [new public health order](#) on Thursday, October 29 enacting new guidelines in response to the large increase of positive cases within the county. As of today, the current positivity rate in Jefferson County is 7.5%.

Today, we are asking everyone to [watch this video](#) from Director of Health Services Julie Wilken, where she provides a thorough overview of the most current county and district data and how Jeffco Public Schools continues to partner and monitor COVID-19 with JCPH and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). We are all using [CDPHE's updated dial framework consisting of 5 levels](#) which was [updated November 2](#) with new color coding for each level.



At present, Jefferson County is in the **Safer at Home Level Yellow: Concern**. However, if our county rates continue to rise, the county could be moving to **Safer at Home Level Orange: High-Risk** or move directly to **Stay at Home**. Learn more about current case rates and the CDPHE dashboard: [CDPHE Dial Framework](#).

Currently, Jeffco Public Schools has **not** made a decision to change any of our learning models. We are closely monitoring the situation in consultation with Jefferson County Public Health and believe that at present, we can maintain in-person learning. We continue to be diligent about our virus mitigation strategies such as wearing masks, social distancing as much as possible, health screenings, cleaning schools, contact tracing, and quarantines when necessary, in order to keep our schools open and our current learning models intact.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### **If Jefferson County Public Health announces a move to the more restrictive Safer at Home Level Orange: High-Risk, what impacts would this have on Jeffco Public Schools learning models?**

The impacts may be minimal. In a transition from our current **Level Yellow Safer at Home: Concern** to a **Level Orange Safer At Home: High-Risk**, the learning models we currently have would stay the same - 100% in-person for elementary; hybrid for middle and high school. With the exception of a mandate from Governor Polis, those decisions are left to individual school districts.

We track both Jefferson County and our district's COVID-19 case data each day. If there were a significant change, especially in Jeffco Public Schools data, then a short-term switch to remote learning would be considered.

### **If Jefferson County moves to Stay At Home, would district schools move to 100% remote learning?**

Unless Governor Polis mandates that schools go fully remote, decisions remain in the hands of individual school districts. Jefferson County is large, and the data may not necessarily reflect what is happening in our schools. If the rate of COVID-19 transmission and outbreaks within schools becomes unmanageable due to illness, quarantines, and staffing shortages, Jeffco Public Schools would consider a switch to 100% remote learning. If the district's positive case rate continues to be manageable, we will do our best to continue to have in-person learning in some form as long as it is safe to do so.

If we do switch levels, the learning models will be re-evaluated every two weeks using the [Jeffco Public Schools COVID-19 Dashboard](#) and in collaboration with Jefferson County Public Health and CDPHE. Jeffco Public Schools would consult with local health experts and would make a decision that is in the best interest of students, employees, and families; nothing is more important than everyone's health and safety.

### **How and when would we know if a change in learning model is going to happen?**

- Employees, parents, and community members will receive communication as soon as a decision is made to switch to a different learning model. We will inform the media, communicate to families via email, phone, and text message, share on district social media channels, and update our [restartjeffco.com](http://restartjeffco.com) website.
- We will give teachers and families time to prepare for the transition to the remote learning model.
- Students may continue to learn from their current classroom teacher(s). Some transitions might need to be made to accommodate all students into remote learning.

**If Jeffco moves to 100% remote learning, what will be the impact on our hourly education support professionals who work at school sites?**

During all discussions of change to the learning model for students, the Human Resources team and department leaders are considering impacts to all staff, including our hourly education support professionals who work on school sites. A change to a learning model can impact work availability for education support professionals. Human Resources and JESPA leadership are working collaboratively to identify solutions which keep staff working during transitions and in different models. More information will be provided when available.

We know that any change in the learning model can be disruptive to families and students. We will continue to do all we can to support student learning in classrooms and at home.

**We would appreciate all families completing this [very short survey](#) to provide feedback on issues of concern should we have to consider our next steps as a school district.**

As we have stated from the beginning, our goal is to offer as much in-person learning as safely as possible in accordance with public health guidance. To ensure we can continue, it will take the cooperation of everyone in Jefferson County, and in the state of Colorado. We appreciate our community doing their part to slow the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools and for supporting our #TeamJeffco staff and our students through this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Kristopher Schuh  
Interim Superintendent  
Jeffco Public Schools