



Dear Germantown Community:

I hope everyone is enjoying the holiday break.

Although we are on break, COVID-19 is not. As of today, the seven-day rolling average of [positive cases in the Capital Region](#) is 9.1%, and the number of positive cases in our county has been rising over the past month. The unpredictable virus spread has been difficult to manage.

After keeping a watchful eye on regional increases in positive cases and due to staffing impacts from quarantine mandates set forth by both the NYSDOH and the Governor's Office, I have made the difficult decision to temporarily shift the Germantown CSD to remote instruction until Friday, Jan. 15, 2021. Students will return to in-person instruction on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021. All students grades Pre-K through 12 will remotely join their classes starting Monday, Jan. 4 during their normally scheduled class times. All Questar III programs including CTE, special education and Tech Valley High School will run as normal. Grab-and-go meal programs will continue during remote instruction.

We understand this is a significant change for our students, staff members and parents, but the health and safety of our school community is above all else. This decision was not made lightly.

We will continue to monitor the number of positive cases in the county as well as surrounding counties. If we see a need to go completely remote after Jan. 15, we will notify you in advance. I ask that our parents prepare for any possible changes that may occur due to quarantines or an increase in positive cases. Be prepared for childcare and have a plan put into place in the event we must extend remote learning.

Please remember that our goal is to have our children in-person here at school, as this is the best educational model for student success, but we may need to go remote out of necessity for one or more of the following reasons:

1. Staff shortages due to mandatory quarantine
2. Time needed for contact tracing
3. Regional or statewide mandates
4. Widespread infection
5. Precautionary measures to prevent widespread infection

Thank you all for your ongoing efforts to keep Germantown safe and healthy. Here's hoping for a safe and happy New Year. Please contact me directly with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Bragg
Superintendent of Schools
Germantown Central School District