



November 10, 2020

Dear Parents and Students,

The School Town of Munster has been monitoring the continued rise in Covid-19 cases. As the numbers have spiked above 13% countywide, the school administration has been monitoring the impact of this disease on our staff and students. Currently, increased numbers of staff are required to quarantine because of exposure to the virus from outside our district. With this, it is difficult to staff all in-person classrooms on a daily basis. Today, the administration met and reviewed how we can best staff our schools to provide a quality educational program to all of our students. From this meeting, I have decided (with the advice of my administrative team) and with the exception of in-person supports for specific programs, we will suspend in-person instruction at all schools at the end of the day on Friday, November 13, 2020. We will continue to monitor the infection rates of our students and staff over the next few weeks, and we hope to return to in-person learning on Wednesday, December 2, 2020.

The key to being able to return to in-person learning on December 2<sup>nd</sup> will be determined by our community, staff, parents and students being able to social distance, wear facemasks and wash hands. With the holiday season approaching, it will be a challenge as family members get together for celebrations, college students return home, and families travel to visit family members. Please remember that we must continue to be vigilant in protecting ourselves and our families from exposure.

It is our hope that providing our families with this notification today will allow parents the necessary time to make provisions to find adequate daycare or supervision for their children during this tough time. We all realize that this is a major inconvenience and a disruption, but unfortunately, these difficult times dictate the measures we are taking.

Because the infection rate of our students remains low, we will allow students to participate in extra-curricular activities with increased safety measures.

I want to thank you for your understanding. If everyone practices safe and healthy habits over the next few weeks, hopefully we can knock down this infection rate and return our children back to in-person learning.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jeff Hendrix