



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: December 22, 2021
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads, and Approved Private School for Students with Disabilities
Route To: Principals and School Nurses
From: Jordan Schiff Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services

Reminders for School Districts in Light of Rising COVID-19 Cases

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) and the New Jersey Department of Health are closely tracking the current impact of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant on in-person education throughout the State. Districts must consult their local health department to determine if a closure is necessary due to COVID-19 outbreaks. Prior to closing any school building(s) due to COVID-19, LEAs must first consult with the local health department (LHD) to determine if building closure is the most appropriate response to the circumstances in a given school building.

These determinations should be made on a building-by-building basis, depending upon the impact of COVID-19 in each building. Once an LEA has consulted with the LHD and has determined that remote learning is the safest option for students and staff, the [County Office of Education \(nj.gov\)](https://www.nj.gov/education/county-office-of-education/) should be promptly notified of the decision and the LEA can begin using the NJDOE-approved remote learning plan for the school buildings impacted.

In order to assess the impact of COVID-19 on in-person learning, **the DOE requests that all school districts, charter and renaissance schools and approved private schools for students with disabilities (collectively, LEAs) report the names of individual school buildings that are ceasing in-person instruction and transitioning to remote learning due to COVID-19, to the [County Office of Education \(nj.gov\)](https://www.nj.gov/education/county-office-of-education/). This information should also include the date on which the LEA plans to resume in-person instruction.**

For more information regarding the requirements to implement remote learning, LEAs can review the NDOE broadcast, "[Local Educational Agency Guidance for Chapter 27 Emergency Virtual or Remote Instruction Programs for the 2021-2022 School Year.](#)"

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Ed.D., Acting Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group