

November 16, 2020

AMA Families,

As our region and state continue to see a rise in COVID-19 cases, American Montessori Academy has remained committed to monitoring the health data on a daily basis and has been in frequent consultation with the Wayne County Health Department. Additionally, we had the opportunity to speak with leaders at Wayne RESA, along with other school leaders, to review the increased case numbers and resulting community impact.

While AMA students, staff, and families have done a remarkable job of doing their part to combat the virus by adhering to our strict mitigation measures and complying with the safety protocols in place, we are compelled at this time, to change our instruction mode to 100% remote until January 11<sup>th</sup>.

Beginning after our break on Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, all AMA students, except for Preschool, will be placed on remote learning through Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. We have known all along it was possible that transmission rates could reach levels that would require a transition to 100% Virtual learning for ALL students at points during the school year.

Students who are currently in-person will receive daily synchronous (live) and asynchronous (self-paced) instruction from their current teacher(s). No changes are slated for students who are enrolled in American Montessori Virtual Academy. If you indicated in the survey, your child(ren) was switching to blended or virtual instruction for the 2<sup>nd</sup> marking period, (December 7<sup>th</sup>) your child's teacher may change. You will be informed before this happens and receive all information that is required.

#### **RATIONALE**

We would like to take a moment to detail the rationale behind this difficult decision. We know that having our students in school learning alongside each other and with their teachers matters. We do not take this decision lightly and have made every effort to remain in-person as long as safely possible. The health department in our area, no longer supports this mode.

The factors that the health department review include the number of cases within a community, the trend of cases (increasing or decreasing), the positivity rate for the county, the school district's mitigation plan, the number of cases in the school, evidence or lack of evidence of transmission of cases within a school, and the health department's matrix, based on community spread level rating.

#### **Number of cases within the community**

- Livonia = 2,282 confirmed cases. In the last week, 358 Livonia residents have tested positive. This is more than double the previous high for new positive individuals in a single week. (Nov. 13 Situation Report)
- Westland = 1,876 confirmed cases.
- Wayne County = 29,549 confirmed cases.
- State = The State of Michigan reported 8,516 new individuals have tested positive for COVID-19 in results reported to the state in the last 24 hours. This is the highest single day total the State has ever reported. (Nov. 13)

#### **The trend of cases (increasing or decreasing)**

- Livonia 7-day average per 100,000:
  - Oct. 27 = 12.66; Nov. 4 = 26.54; Nov. 12 = 48.04

- Detroit 7-day average per 100,000:
  - Oct. 27 = 28.69; Nov. 4 = 17.98; Nov. 11 = 16.06
- Wayne County 7-day average per 100,000:
  - Oct. 27 = 8.87; Nov. 4 = 20.66; Nov. 11 = 28.39

**The positivity test rate (city and county)**

- Livonia’s positivity test rate is currently over 12% (per City of Livonia’s Nov. 12, 2020 Situation Report)
- Detroit’s positivity test rate is currently 6.8% (per City of Detroit’s Nov.13, 2020 Situation Report)
- Wayne County’s positivity test rate is currently 11.6%
  - Last week, the positivity test rate for Wayne County was 7.2%; Oct. 22 the rate was 5%

**The community spread level rating (on an A-E scale)**

Livonia’s community spread rating is a level E  
 Westland’s community spread rating is a level E  
 Wayne County’s community spread rating is a level E

Your child’s teacher will be sharing schedules through their Google Classrooms, but as always, you may visit our website for more information on the virtual academy at

[https://www.americanmontessori.net/our\\_programs/american\\_montessori\\_virtual\\_academy](https://www.americanmontessori.net/our_programs/american_montessori_virtual_academy)

You may also utilize our AMA Learning Website to view the teacher’s schedule.

<https://sites.google.com/view/amatrailblazers/home>

We understand that this can be difficult for our families; this situation that calls for our careful and thoughtful response to maintain safe and secure learning environments for our students and our staff. As always, we value our strong community partnership as we work together with our students, staff, families, and community to promote the safety, health, and well-being of all.

Sincerely,

*Renee Arnot*

Renee Arnot  
 Executive Director

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