

November 21, 2020

AMA Families,

We received notice from the Wayne County Health Department that strongly recommends that schools in Wayne County temporarily shift to a remote learning model through January 15th.

Beginning after our break on Monday, November 30th, all AMA students, except for Preschool, will be placed on remote learning through Monday, January 18th.

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 2nd marking period, (December 7th) your child's teacher may change. You will be informed before this happens and receive all information that is required.

RATIONALE

The reasons for this change are:

- The continued exponential growth of COVID-19 cases in Wayne County (4,185 new cases in the past six days)
- Wayne County's positivity rate for Nov. 20, 2020 is 15.5 percent;
- Continued community spread of the virus, especially among those younger than 25 years of age; and,
- Epidemiological models that show the spread of the disease will continue to increase for several weeks.

Based on these factors and out of an abundance of caution, the Wayne County Public Health Division is recommending that all school districts – public, non-public, and boarding schools in its jurisdiction – temporarily shift to a remote learning model for Pre-K through grade 8 and for pupils in grades 9 through 12 through January 15, 2021.

The Wayne County COVID-19 transmission risk level published yesterday alarmingly lists all communities in Wayne County in a Level E, which is the highest level possible for the transmission of COVID-19.

For the week of November 8 - November 14, 2020, the COVID-19 metrics for the schools are:

1. Total "Confirmed" Number of COVID-19 Cases Reported in Out-Wayne-County (excluding the City of Detroit): 3,794, which is 1,191 more than the previous week.
2. 7-Day Percent Positivity Rate in Out-Wayne-County (excluding the City of Detroit): 13.2 %, which is 3.0 % more than the previous week.
3. Hospital Occupancy Rate for Inpatient Beds in Wayne County (excluding the City of Detroit): 74% which is 2% lower than the previous week.
4. Hospital Occupancy Rate for ICU Beds in Wayne County (excluding the City of Detroit): 78%, which is 1% lower than the previous week.
5. Testing Capacity Rate in Out-Wayne-County (excluding the City of Detroit): 5,517 tests per million, which is 917 more than the previous week.

As stated in my previous letter, 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

You may also utilize our AMA Virtual 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.

Read the full letter from the [WCHD](#).

Sincerely,

Renee Arnot

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