



## *Administrative Service Center*

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Robert S. Monroe  
Interim Superintendent

November 6, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Utica Community Schools has two priorities guiding our work: providing academic excellence to every student and ensuring a healthy and safe environment for students and staff members. We implemented a gradual return to in-person instruction so that we could monitor the safety data and control the COVID-19 risk for our families and community as a whole. Unfortunately, given the current spike in new cases coupled with the high percentage of exposures throughout the district, we must pause our return process and transition back to the remote learning environment.

The district will be making the following modifications to our return to learn plan:

- Students who are currently in remote learning will remain in remote learning. This includes high school students, students in grades 5-6 and any other student populations scheduled to return to in-person learning on Monday, November 9, 2020.
- Secondary students who are currently in-person learning will return to remote learning beginning Monday, November 9, 2020. This includes junior high school students, secondary special education, specialty programs, CTE and any other applicable secondary student populations.
- Elementary students who are currently in-person learning will return to remote learning beginning Thursday, November 12, 2020. This includes K-4 students, elementary special education and any other applicable populations. The additional time is intended to allow families time to make child care plans.

Our students will remain in remote learning until at least Thanksgiving break with a future return plan based on the impact of COVID-19 on our district.

This is not where we hoped to be moving into the second marking period. The reality for Utica Community Schools is that COVID-19 does not respect school boundaries. It has disrupted our classrooms, quarantined a significant number of students and staff members, and hindered our ability to provide the personnel and resources to meet student needs. With the number of staff members quarantined due to COVID-19 exposure, finding substitute personnel is a growing challenge. This is true across the county and particularly for a district of our size. It is my intention that by returning to the remote environment, we will do our part in mitigating the continued spread of this pandemic while maintaining our priorities.

Your principal will be sharing additional information with you later today related to your child's school. In addition, we have updated our [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page and our [district dashboard](#). Please do not hesitate to communicate directly with your teacher regarding any concerns you may have about your student's academics or overall wellness. Our staff has additional resources that they can draw upon to support you and your children.

Thank you for your trust and continued support as we live out our mission to provide exemplary teaching and learning for every student, especially during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Monroe  
Interim Superintendent

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