

Frequently Asked Questions - Return On January 3, 2022

Why is the district pivoting to remote instruction on January 4, 2022? The district has been in contact with the Somerset County Department of Health over the Winter Break and has been monitoring reported positive cases. Due to the high number of positive cases reported in the last 24 hours, there is an additional challenge in providing timely case investigation and contact tracing. Also there has been a large increase in staff absentee levels reported over the last 24 hours, which will undoubtedly impact the continuity of school operations. As a result, earlier today, January 2, 2022, the district once again conferred with the local health department who supported the district plan to pivot to remote instruction after an in person minimum session day on January 3, 2022.

Why come back to in person instruction for one day, January 3, 2022? Monday, January 3, 2022 will be an opportunity for staff and students to return to school to prepare for the remote learning period. Students and staff will also have the opportunity to bring home learning/teaching materials. Students who typically do not bring home chromebooks, textbooks and other support materials will be able to take these items home with them to facilitate remote learning and teachers that may have left classroom materials behind prior to winter break will have the opportunity to retrieve what they need.

Why is January 3, 2022 a minimum session day? A minimum session day schedule provides more flexibility to allow for class coverage for absent staff.

Will CARE be available? Morning CARE will be provided by the YMCA of Greater Somerset on Monday, January 3, 2022. Due to staffing issues, there will be no afternoon CARE on Monday. The YMCA has informed the district that they will be able to offer full day CARE during the remote learning days for a limited number of students. Those interested should contact Benjamin Green from the YMCA directly at bgreen@gscymca.org

Will meals be provided? Breakfast will be offered at all district schools on Monday, January 3, 2022. Lunch will be provided at the elementary level on Monday, January 3, 2022. Once the district pivots to remote learning, meals will be available in bulk as grab and go packs at four locations on two dates. On **Thursday, January 6, 2022** and **Thursday, January 13, 2022** meals can be picked up during the hours of **10:00 am - 1:00 pm** at Elizabeth Avenue School, 363 Elizabeth Avenue, Somerset; Hillcrest School, 500 Franklin Boulevard, Somerset; and Pine Grove Manor School, 130 Highland Avenue, Somerset. Meals will also be available at the Hamilton Street Campus of Franklin Middle School, 415 Francis Street, Somerset, from **10:00 am - 3:30pm** on these dates.

How long will remote learning last? Currently the district plans to utilize remote teaching and learning through Thursday, January 13, 2022. Friday, January 14 is a planned in service professional development day for staff, so students did not have to report to school. Monday, January 17, 2022 is a planned holiday, the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The District will work with the Somerset County Department of Health to continue monitoring all relevant data during the two week remote period and if further action is needed the District will communicate any changes as soon as possible.

Will the buildings remain open? Our buildings will remain open allowing staff and student families to pick up materials if needed. Outside organizations who have already reserved district facilities may continue to utilize them following appropriate Covid-19 protocols.

What about athletics and extracurricular activities? Athletics will continue to the extent possible, coaches will provide more information to their student athletes. Extracurricular activities will continue remotely. Those students involved in activities which require in person interaction, such as performing arts performances and rehearsals, will hear directly from their advisor.

What about the Road to Success Program? Since January 3, 2022 is a minimum session day, there will be no in person instruction for the RTS Program. Instead, students in the RTS Program will receive information directly from the Program administrator, Vice Principal Nikkii Tatum and/or their teachers on remote instruction.

If my child or a member of my household tests positive for Covid-19, should I still report that information to the district? Yes, even while teaching and learning is remote, please let the nurse in your child's school know if your child or someone in their household tests positive for Covid-19. The nurses continue to work with the Somerset County Department of Health to report positive Covid-19 cases and to assist with contact tracing.

What if my child or I need help with technology during remote learning? Our technology team and instructional technology coaches are able to help with remote learning issues. Here is the link for [Tech Support Questions / Request for a Hotspot and/or Chromebook Repair](#)

Please complete this form to request a Hotspot; report remote instructional technology issues or ask questions such as creating a screen capture video or uploading a video, or IReady access, etc.

Here is the URL for the form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6HrHZBbfRcWyh31DnchgaqmHauTAUdvq85yszYNPtoi4N_w/viewform