

NORTH CALDWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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Linda Freda, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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October 11, 2020

Dear Parents,

I am sorry to inform you that both Gould and Grandview schools **will be closed for in-person instruction for the next 14 days**. The local health officer, Bill Wallace, has asked that we close for in-person instruction based on the number of positive COVID-19 cases present at the West Essex High School. Due to a lack of cooperation with contact tracing, Mr. Wallace has requested that we close as it would appear that the spread of the virus may involve families in North Caldwell. Should the circumstances change and contact tracing indicate that our students and staff are not at-risk we would consider reopening for in-person instruction.

While we have a robust remote option available now, most of us agree that, all else being equal, an in-person experience for our students is preferable. A great deal of time, effort and money has been spent to give our children the option of an in-person or hybrid experience. Our children are certainly doing their part – our teachers and staff report that the students have been nothing short of terrific, following the in-school safety protocols. Our ability to continue to provide in-person instruction depends on all of us doing our part. Public health is a shared responsibility, and we all play a critical role in protecting our students, staff, and community members from exposure to this virus. As it appears that this latest outbreak of the virus is a result of exposure at social events and activities taking place outside of the school setting it is imperative that all families continue to follow the recommended safety protocols outside the school setting to limit as much as possible the spread of this disease. The choices we make moving forward can mean the difference between resuming in-person instruction or remaining on our Distance Learning Plan. For the sake of our children's education, I hope that we can all come together and take these steps.

Thank you very much for your hard work so far and for your anticipated cooperation going forward. Our educational programs depend on it.

Sincerely,
Linda Freda, Ed.D