



BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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December 4, 2020

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff:

We hope that you and your families had a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday. As we look forward to welcoming students back to school in-person (at the elementary level) and to our hybrid model (middle and high school) next Monday, December 7, we would like to update you on several items.

On Monday, December 14, **the Board of Education will consider the proposal from the administration to operate on a fully remote model for one week after the winter recess, January 4-8.** We will update you shortly after the meeting to let you know of its decision.

Second, due to a change in the U.S. Department of Agriculture regulation, **ALL students are now eligible for FREE breakfast and lunch.** There are no income requirements, and all students of the Berlin Public Schools are eligible to receive free meals between now and the end of the school year in June. All of our school cafeterias are offering free breakfast and lunch to all students at this time. Remote learners are encouraged to pick up meals at McGee Middle School, 899 Norton Road (please drive around to the back of the school on the left hand side) from 8:00-10:00 a.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. For more information, watch this public service announcement on school meals:

[English language version](#)

[Spanish language version](#)

Third, for elementary students, **please remember to bring your loaned iPad or Chromebook back to school** on Monday, and **don't forget to bring the charger!** Please look for information from your child's teachers regarding the "go bags" and which materials should be returned to school.

Finally, we remind you to **please review and comply with the Connecticut Travel Advisory** to help ensure the safety of our students and staff. The travel advisory requires anyone traveling to (or back into) Connecticut from designated states to quarantine for fourteen days from the date he or she was last in that state. For a current listing of states on the Connecticut Travel Advisory, please go to the following link: <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>. This list is updated weekly and states can be added or dropped from the list based on current health data.

In consultation with the Central CT Health District, we have the following guidelines related to travel: If you/your child are subject to the travel quarantine for the fourteen days, and wish to return to school earlier, please wait five days after returning to Connecticut to get RT-PCR tested. The purpose of this five-day period is to allow any potential virus infection to incubate and aid in a more accurate test result. If this test is negative, you must provide a copy of the negative RT-PCR test result prior to returning to school/work. A rapid antigen test or an antibody test will not satisfy the state's exception to the quarantine requirement.

Sincerely,

Brian J. Benigni
Superintendent of Schools

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