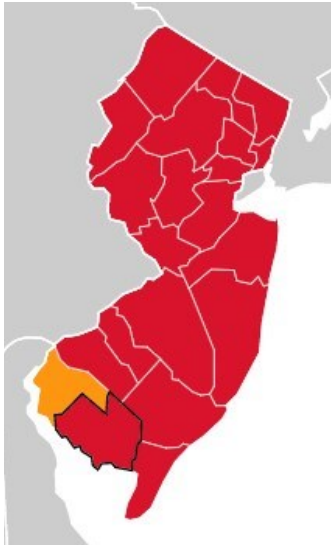




# Superintendent's Winter Edition

# Bulldog Briefing



Dr. Keith Miles, Jr. • Superintendent of Schools

## Happy Friday Bulldog Team!

I hope everyone stayed safe and warm during this week's ice and snow. We are slowly approaching new COVID-19 case rates we saw back in October, and many states and counties have downgraded their risk level from red to orange, which is very encouraging.

In preparation for a **March 15th** student return, over the next several weeks, schools are reaching out to parents and adjusting our 1 day a week plans to 2 days for most and 4 days for some high risk students and families. All staff, both classroom and non-classroom based, return on **March 11th**.

## Cumberland County, NJ



COVID RISK LEVEL ⓘ

### Active outbreak

Cumberland County is either actively experiencing an outbreak or is at extreme risk. COVID cases are exponentially growing and/or Cumberland County's COVID preparedness is significantly below international standards.



ALERT

Add your phone to [New Jersey's exposure notification system](#) to receive alerts if you were in close contact with someone who later tests positive for COVID. Your privacy is protected as your identity is not known and your location is not tracked.

#### DAILY NEW CASES

● **33.9** PER 100K

Dangerous number of new cases

#### INFECTION RATE

● **0.81**

Active cases are decreasing

#### POSITIVE TEST RATE

● **8.0%**

Indicates adequate testing

#### ICU CAPACITY USED

● **61%**

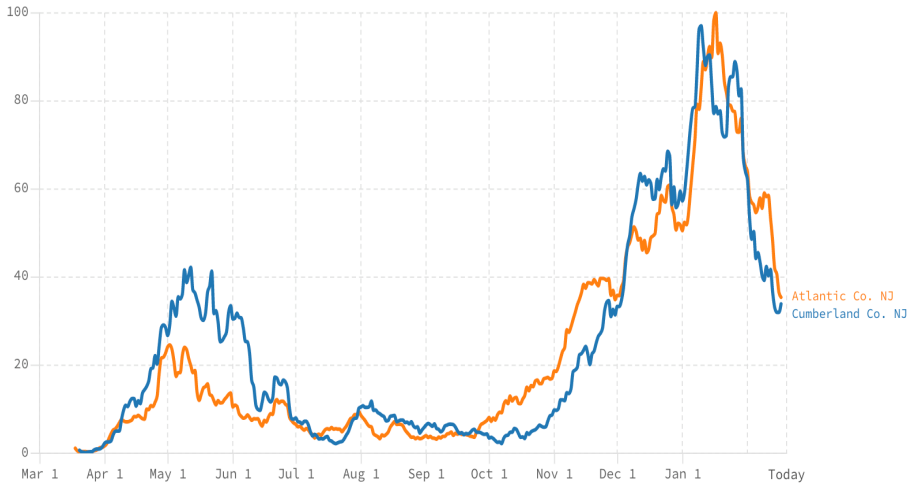
Can likely handle a new wave of COVID

#### VACCINATED

● **9.9%** 1ST SHOT

[New Indicator](#)





## COVID CASES IN OUR SCHOOLS

As of today, our COVID-19 total cases since 10/13 are currently at: **80**

- 5 Positive Staff Cases at the TCL Building
- 11 Positive Staff Cases at QML
- 1 Positive Staff Case at ExCEL
- 14 Positive Cases at BHS
- 4 Positive Staff Case at the Annex
- 11 Positive Staff Cases at Broad
- 9 Positive Staff Cases at Buckshutem
- 7 Positive Staff Cases at West
- 3 Positive Staff Case at Cherry
- 6 Positive Staff Case at Dr. GOFEC
- 9 Positive Staff Cases at Indian

## INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF REPORTING EXPECTATIONS

Assuming trends continue in a positive direction, all classroom-based instructional staff are expected to return to classrooms on March 11th. Similar to October, please plan for staff to have the option of teaching straight through in their classrooms or going home to log back on for the end-of-day 75-minute period. More specifics around instructional staff's reporting schedules will be shared. We are providing this information now so that staff can begin to plan appropriately for childcare.

## FACILITIES UPDATE - AIR PURIFIERS

Again, we have purchased the AtmosAir Everest Air Purifiers and have installed them in classrooms. We are still gathering information on other areas where we might install them as well as the associated costs of a potential phase 2 (which would include additional offices and work spaces). These units are a 3-stage charcoal and HEPA filter that remove dust and bacteria that can carry viruses in the air. This unit also employs a new technology called Needlepoint Bi-Polar purification which kills viruses and bacteria that pass through the unit. This is enhanced with Ultraviolet light within the unit.

## DRIVE-THROUGH TESTING

Our Business Administrator and HR Director are finalizing plans with Advanced Management Services (AMS) to offer FREE, appointment only drive-through nasal swab testing from 1-4 pm on Wednesdays. This testing will be offered in the parking lots of all our schools with the exception of ExCEL. Instructions on how to secure an appointment will be communicated to staff and families in the coming days.

## STUDENT INCENTIVES

Many of our school teams, principals, and CPIs are making house calls to deliver pizzas to students with perfect attendance and doing outstanding work in this virtual environment. Pictured below: a student enjoys her pizza; Principal Brown and staff from Indian Avenue School make a delivery. Ms. Dejesus accompanied Mr. Brown with house calls, and Ms. Cheeks navigated the tight side streets of Bridgeton.



## Upcoming Dates/Events

- First Day of FREE School Site Drive Through Testing (1-4pm) - **Wednesday, March 3rd**
- March Board Meeting - **Tuesday, March 9th**
- Projected return to in-person learning for staff - **Thursday, March 11,**
- Projected return to in-person learning for students - **Monday, March 15**
- Good Friday and Spring Break - **Friday, April 2-9**



## “Feeding Education is Always on the Menu”

*It is our belief that the cafeteria is an extension of the classroom. The BFSDD offers nutritious meals daily along with nutrition education to our staff and students. Our menus emphasize whole grains, fresh produce and low-sodium items that fuel our student's day. We participate in every program the department of agriculture offers in an effort to provide our students with every opportunity to nourish their bodies. We are labeled a 5 Star Nutrition Hub for participation in breakfast, lunch, after school snack (ASSP), fresh fruit and vegetable (FFVP), supper (At-Risk Dinner), summer feeding, and farm to school programs.*



Mr. Warren DeShields

## District's Food Services Department Keeps Bridgeton On the Digital Map

Bridgeton Public Schools' Food Services Team, under the leadership of **Mr. Warren DeShields, Director of Food Services**, recently was featured on a New Jersey Healthy Communities Network (NJHCN) blog highlighting grantees of the Community Grants Program. The Community Grants Program brings together local, regional and statewide leaders to support communities in developing healthy environments for people to live, work, learn and play.

Click on the link below to read all about the good work coming from our Food Services Department. Congratulations Team!

<http://www.njhc.org/connecting-community-and-curriculum-to-impact-school-nutrition/>

## Meetings and Community Engagements for the Week of February 8 - 19

- Individual Check-in with the Business Administrator, the Director of Human Resources, the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, the Director of Special Education, the Director of Research, Evaluation and Testing.
- Weekly Central Leadership Team meeting
- Executive County Superintendents Meeting to discuss Equity and Social Justice
- Meeting with the Institute for Student Achievement (ISA) consultants and the Director of Special Education to discuss Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in our district.
- Meeting with the Black History Program Sponsor at BHS to discuss upcoming Black History Month Program.
- Meeting with Achieve 3000 consultants and the Curriculum team to discuss our district-wide literacy performance.
- Board Policy Committee meeting
- Board Personnel Committee meeting
- Board Facilities Committee meeting
- February Board meeting
- Curriculum and Instruction Monthly Team meeting
- Participated in QML's Black History Month Live Read In
- Mid Year Budget Review with County Executive Superintendent and her team
- Conversations with Association leadership are ongoing
- Conversations with the Board President, VP, and other Board members are ongoing
- Weekly Check-in with Principals
- 2021-2022 Leadership Team Planning meeting
- Meeting with BA to discuss our schools offering drive through testing to the community and staff on deep cleaning Wednesdays
- February Administrative Council meeting
- One on one Leadership Development meetings with 7 administrators