

# West Virginia Department of Education

## Details In-Person Instruction and Vaccine Roll Out

**December 30, 2020**

**CHARLESTON, W.Va.** – Following an announcement from Governor Jim Justice, the West Virginia Department of Education (WVDE) has revised its guidance regarding in-person instruction effective, Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021. The changes will provide a more consistent, in-person teaching and learning model for West Virginia children.

Beginning Jan. 19, students in grades pre-K through 8 will return to in-person learning five days each week. Students in grades 9 through 12 will also return to in-person instruction five days each week as long as their county is not red. Special allowances will be given for four-day learning models in counties whose teachers are providing direct virtual learning instruction to their own students.

From Jan. 4 through Jan. 15, counties will move to remote learning, and educators will use this two-week period to prepare for the return to in-person instruction. Families have the option to keep their children in virtual learning regardless of changes to in-person instruction.

The revisions mean the WVDE's Saturday Education Map will no longer be published and, instead, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) County Alert System Map will guide high school in-person instruction.

Additionally, Governor Jim Justice announced winter sports and extracurricular activities are postponed until March 1.

State Superintendent of Schools W. Clayton Burch said children need to return to in-person instruction, and when key mitigation strategies are followed, it safe for them to do so.

"The research shows it is safe to restore the in-person learning model for parents that chose this option for the children," said Superintendent Burch. "We also know students are suffering because of the lack of in-person instruction. CPS referrals have decreased, student social and emotional well-being has suffered, and one-third of our students have received failing grades in at least one core subject area. We simply have to get our students back in school, in-person."

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For more information, contact Christy Day at the WVDE Office of Communications at 304-558-2699 or [Christy.Day@k12.wv.us](mailto:Christy.Day@k12.wv.us).

For information about COVID-19, please visit [www.coronavirus.wv.gov](http://www.coronavirus.wv.gov) or [wvde.us/COVID19](http://wvde.us/COVID19).

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