



December 21, 2021

Staff and Community,

I am sure that most of you are aware of the strategies school districts throughout Maryland are employing in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As a result, some districts are returning to virtual instruction and/or cancelling after school programs and activities.

Queen Anne's County Public Schools, in partnership with the Queen Anne's County Health Department, diligently monitors our COVID-19 case levels on a daily basis. My primary goal has been, and will continue to be, keeping our students safe and in school. We all know that for most of our students, face to face instruction is the ideal learning environment. At this time, I am **not** considering a full district shutdown.

As we return from winter break, we will continue to monitor rates daily. In the event that a school is seeing a spike in cases traced to school transmission, I will consider shifting that school to a virtual platform for a 2-week time frame in an effort to mitigate the spread. Principals will be working with staff to be planned and prepared **if** such action is deemed necessary.

As a reminder, if any staff or students are experiencing symptoms, stay home. And, please continue to use mitigation strategies by washing hands frequently, wearing a mask, and socially distancing when possible. We need to work together as a community to keep everyone safe, healthy, and in school.

I wish you all a healthy and happy holiday season.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Patricia W. Saelens'.

Dr. Patricia W. Saelens,  
Superintendent