



Pearl River School District

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Marco F. Pochintesta, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

October 26, 2020

Dear PRHS Families and School Community,

As you know, we had an early dismissal today at the HS due to having another positive COVID-19 case in the school. A total of 27 adults (teachers, teaching assistants, substitutes, aides, and custodians) are required to quarantine. Decisions about who must quarantine are made by the Department of Health. We cannot carry out our in-person instruction, the hybrid model, without the required staff. I realize how this affects families in the community, especially when they are not prepared for a change. I am sorry for the inconvenience and the disruption this causes. We know that teaching and learning happen best when our students are with their teachers, and we are making every effort to remain open.

The Rockland County Department of Health has confirmed that we are able to continue our plan to host the PSAT on Thursday for those students that are signed up and are not required to quarantine. In addition, our JV and Varsity sports can continue with coaches and students who are not under quarantine.

In our effort to re-open following today's early dismissal we contacted almost 50 substitutes to find coverage for the sixteen teachers that must quarantine. We have not had anyone accept these open positions yet. Unfortunately, this is another difficult reality of the pandemic. Our internal capacity does not allow for this many classes (95) to be covered in one day.

The quarantine period for this case runs through November 6th. Thursday of this week is a remote day already due to the administration of the PSAT. **At this time, the HS will remain on remote instruction this week, October 27-30.** A decision regarding next week will be made at the end of this week based upon whether we are able to secure the number of substitutes needed to operate our schools safely and resume our hybrid model.

Sincerely,

