

**WESTERN SUFFOLK BOCES  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

November 18, 2020

Dear Families,

*Thank you.*

Thank you for helping us to re-open our schools safely by following our health and safety protocols. Thank you for encouraging your children to wear face masks, stressing to them the importance of maintaining social distancing and frequently reminding them to wash their hands. Thank you for keeping your children home when they do not feel well, monitoring them daily for symptoms of COVID-19 and communicating with our staff about any health concerns.

If this pandemic has taught us anything, it is that what we do affects others. It hasn't been easy, but we should be proud that we have been able to accomplish so much as a community. Together we not only flattened the curve, but almost nearly reversed it.

Unfortunately, due to a recent rise in positive COVID-19 cases in our area, there is still more to do. The post-Halloween spike in COVID-19 cases raises concerns of an even more substantial second wave increase after Thanksgiving. Governor Cuomo has also issued new quarantine restrictions on travel and on private gatherings, dining out and other activities. (*Links to the new restrictions as well as guidance from the CDC are provided below.*) We count on your continued cooperation with regard to these new restrictions and trust that you will continue to support our efforts to keep our students and staff safe. If your child will need to remain home in quarantine due to travel, please let our staff know so we can support instruction through remote-learning.

Our very best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,



Michael Flynn  
Chief Operating Officer

To find out more about Western Suffolk BOCES COVID-19 related information, visit:

<https://www.wsboces.org/restart/>

To read NYS Governor Cuomo's Executive Order, visit:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-20274-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency>

For CDC guidance about holiday celebrations, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>