



# UNION COUNTY VOCATIONAL - TECHNICAL SCHOOLS

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*Mrs. Gwendolyn S. Ryan*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

December 31, 2021

Dear UCVTS Students, Parents, Staff and Community Members,

As we near the end of the winter break at UCVTS, we continue to carefully monitor positive COVID-19 numbers of individuals within our community. Within the County, due to the rising COVID numbers that have continued through the break, several school districts have made announcements that they will temporarily move to a fully virtual environment in the week(s) following the winter break. Several others have similarly made announcements that their districts will move to half-day schedules in the week(s) following the winter break.

In consideration of a variety of factors including our unique programs and related schedules, our connection to more than twenty-one (21) sending districts both in and out of Union County, and the sharp increase in positive numbers at UCVTS during and before the winter break, **the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools will move to a temporary fully remote learning environment for the two weeks following the break.** Specifically, all UCVTS schools and programs will move to a temporary, fully remote setting from January 3 through January 14, 2022, **with a return to in-person instruction via our regular schedule on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.** A variety of community stakeholders, including our local Department of Health Official were consulted as a part of the decision making process.

***Should there be a sharp decline in positive COVID-19 numbers locally and within our community in the next week, prior to our scheduled return to in-person instruction on January 18, we will consider an earlier return to in-person instruction.***

Please review the [UCVTS Remote Learning Schedule](#) prior to Monday, January 3. Further procedural instruction will be distributed via building principals. Please note, a multi-day/week half-day schedule is not available to our District at this time, due to scheduling variances among programs within our District, transportation complexities, and our interconnectedness with more than twenty-one (21) sending districts.

Students should have Chromebooks, textbooks and other materials needed for remote instruction with them at home. However, UCVTS schools will be open on Monday, January 3 and Tuesday, January 4 between the hours of 8:00 am and 3:30 pm to students who need to retrieve necessary learning materials. Students who do not have access to reliable internet access or Wi-Fi at home should reach out to their building principal directly. "Grab and Go" style meals will be available to students via the outside loading dock area, directly adjacent to the cafeteria. Meals will be available between the hours of 10:30 am and 1:00 p.m. on January 3, 5, 10, & 14. Arrangements will be made for families who need alternative pick-up times. Multiple days of meals will be available to students.

Students, staff and families can assist in ensuring safety and a smooth return to in-person instruction in a variety of ways:

- UCVTS community members are encouraged to be tested for COVID-19 regularly and as a preventative measure. All families are encouraged to have their UCVTS student tested prior to returning to in-person instruction on January 18. Weekly testing is already available to district staff members and we are currently exploring preventative testing measures for students as well. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

- Stay home if you are ill or experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms.
- Notify our school nurses at [jsherer@ucvts.org](mailto:jsherer@ucvts.org) or [cparham-foster@ucvts.org](mailto:cparham-foster@ucvts.org) of any students or staff, or immediate household members of students or staff, who have tested positive for COVID-19. Our nurses can also be reached by calling (908)-889-8288 ext. 405.
- Notify our school nurses at [jsherer@ucvts.org](mailto:jsherer@ucvts.org) or [cparham-foster@ucvts.org](mailto:cparham-foster@ucvts.org) if you have or are planning to travel.
- Consider the advantages of COVID-19 vaccination and booster, if you are not already vaccinated. More information can be found at <https://ucnjvaccine.org/>

In the upcoming days and weeks, more information will be distributed regarding updated quarantine procedures for COVID-19 positive individuals and who are identified as close contacts through the contact tracing process, in alignment with new Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Department of Health (DOH) guidance.

Prior to return of in-person instruction, our District facilities will undergo another deep-cleaning and UCVTS administrative staff will work with our teaching staff on enhancing instructional practices in an effort to limit close contacts and possible exposure while COVID-19 positive numbers continue to be high locally and in New Jersey.

I would like to reiterate our belief in the importance of in-person instruction, both social and academic, to our students and to the Career and Technical Education setting. Please be assured that our commitment to in-person instruction has not changed. We continue to have confidence in the many procedures and precautions we have put forth through our pandemic response and recovery efforts to provide the safest possible environment for our students and staff. The temporary two-week move to a virtual learning environment is another reactive and precautionary measure taken to ensure we are able to provide the safest and most consistent educational experiences possible.

I wish all of our community members a happy and healthy New Year! We've still got this...

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn S. Ryan  
Superintendent of Schools