

James City County

Newport News

Poquoson

Williamsburg

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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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December 7, 2020

Mr. Arty C. Tillett, Superintendent
Poquoson City Public Schools
500 City Hall Avenue
Poquoson, VA 23662

Dear Mr. Tillett,

Leadership of the Hampton & Peninsula Health Districts are aware that we are at the point where many school systems are expanding the number of students into classrooms and into organized athletic activities. Please note that our districts are experiencing a surge in cases. Each locality has seen this increase in positive cases since the Thanksgiving holiday and anticipate that this will continue.

Therefore, during this critical time, close contact, either social interaction or through sports is highly discouraged. Specifically, any contact sport involving direct or prolonged close contact, shared equipment that cannot be disinfected after use by each person – should be avoided and not allowed in either intramural or competitive settings. This includes drills or practices. Competitive sports with teams of other jurisdictions are even further discouraged. While we focus on infection prevention in the classroom, we must remember that the extracurricular activities carry a similar, if not higher risk to our children and loved ones.

Lastly, as we move into the winter holiday season, once again families will gather for unintended potential exposures. Therefore, the following recommendations are provided:

- Following the holiday break, we suggest virtual education for at least two weeks to decrease the exposure risk.
- Avoid contact sports activities.
- Urge all staff and families to get vaccinated for Influenza. Plans for COVID-19 vaccination are ongoing.

Thank you for your efforts in keeping our community safe.

Sincerely,

Natasha Dwamena, MD, MPH, FACOG
Director
Hampton/Peninsula Health Districts