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**MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
PO Box 311 • NORRISTOWN, PA 19404-0311
610-278-5117
FAX: 610-278-5167
WWW.MONTCPA.ORG/HHS

JANET PANNING, MS
INTERIM ADMINISTRATOR
RICHARD S. LORRAINE, MD, FACP
MEDICAL DIRECTOR

ORDER OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Montgomery County School COVID-19 Risk Reduction and Mitigation Order

BACKGROUND

1. On March 8, 2020, the Montgomery County Commissioners declared a disaster emergency in Montgomery County because of a widespread outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) that overwhelmed first responders, healthcare providers and businesses within Montgomery County.
2. The medical emergency from COVID-19 continues to endanger the health, safety and welfare of a substantial number of persons and businesses in Montgomery County, necessitating the continuation of the declared emergency through at least December 6, 2020, with the potential for extension beyond that date.
3. Emergency management measures are required to reduce the severity of this disaster and to protect the health, safety and welfare of affected residents in Montgomery County.
4. Montgomery County is currently experiencing a substantial surge of COVID-19 cases across the County with an associated rapid increase in hospitalizations related to COVID-19. The majority of spread is associated with private social gatherings and recreational sports.
5. Based on experience from prior holidays during the COVID-19 pandemic, it is anticipated that the traditional celebrations associated with the Thanksgiving Holiday coupled with the high incidence of COVID-19 in Montgomery County have the potential to dramatically increase the spread of COVID-19 across this community.
6. The implementation of virtual schools during the period of peak contagion is designed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and is essential to ensure the protection

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1430 DEKALB STREET • NORRISTOWN, PA 19404-0311 • PHONE: 610-278-5145 • FAX: 610-278-5166
364 KING STREET • POTTSTOWN, PA 19464 • PHONE: 610-970-5040 • FAX: 610-970-5048
102 YORK ROAD, SUITE 401 • WILLOW GROVE, PA 19090 • PHONE: 215-784-5415 • FAX: 215-784-5524

of children, teachers, school staff, and others who are impacted, as well as those in the general community.

THEREFORE, pursuant to my authority as Interim Administrator of the Montgomery County Office of Public Health under the Pennsylvania Disease Prevention and Control Law of 1955, 35 P.S. 521.1 et. seq., in order to ensure the health, safety and welfare of residents, school personnel, school children, their families, and the general populace of Montgomery County from the further spread of COVID-19, I hereby order the following:

All schools, both public and private in Montgomery County are required to support virtual education only, for the period of November 23 through December 6, 2020. This requirement includes virtual education only for special education and canceling of school sanctioned extra-curricular activities.



Janet Panning, MS
Interim Administrator
Montgomery County Office of Public Health

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