



# MORRIS HILLS REGIONAL DISTRICT

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September 11, 2020

Dear MHRD Community:

We hope this correspondence finds you healthy and safe. The purpose of this letter is to share with you an update with regard to our HVAC systems at both high schools.

We communicated with you on August 22, 2020 regarding the univents in our classrooms, sharing information given to the Board of Education and Central Office Administration. We noted that our HVAC system was “deep cleaned and sanitized,” and that certain filters, specifically “MERV 8 filters” meeting the manufacturer’s guidelines recommended by the NJDOE Road to Recovery, were installed.

Recently, we discovered that inaccurate information was provided to the Board of Education and to the Central Office Administration, and MERV 2 filters were installed in certain classrooms after they were cleaned this summer. This has now become a personnel matter, and we cannot share additional information at this time. Please know that upon learning this, we took immediate action to order new MERV 8 filters to make sure that those filters are in place throughout the district. The manufacturer understands the urgency of this situation and indicated it will ship them to us ASAP.

We discussed this situation with various professionals, including the County Department of Education, as it relates to whether this issue should impact our decision to continue to offer in-person education. We also consulted with local Health Department officials, who advised that there is little functional difference between the impact of MERV 2 and MERV 8 filters on the Covid19 virus, and the Health Department did not direct us to close.

*Please know that the health and safety of our community always comes first. Out of an abundance of caution, both Morris Hills and Morris Knolls High Schools will move to an [all-virtual schedule](#) from Monday, September 14, 2020 to Friday, September 25, 2020 while professionals review this matter and conduct airflow assessments, and we install the MERV 8 filters. At the conclusion of this two-week period, we will re-assess health and safety conditions and provide the community with an update. Please be advised that fall athletics and marching band will continue as planned during this two week period.*

This abrupt change in our reopening plan is unfortunate. We apologize for this disruption to your family’s schedule. It is now, as it always has been, our goal to provide a safe environment for our students and staff. We hope to have this situation remedied in the next two weeks. Thank you again for your understanding and your shared commitment to the education of our students.

Sincerely,

The MHRD Administrative Team

“Excellence in Education”

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