



*Serving With Pride The
Township of Manalapan
and the
Borough of Englishtown*

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

As you are aware, next week we will begin the process of initiating 5 day in-person instruction for first and second grade in large spaces so that social distancing can be maintained. Unfortunately, this will place additional students on the district's buses (This will not impact the buses serving the ELC, Pine Brook or MEMS). While there are some bus routes where social distancing has been maintained, there are other routes, even though the buses are not fully loaded, we have been unable to maintain social distancing. It is my expectation that with the additional first and second grade students on the buses, there will be an increase in the number of buses where social distancing can not be maintained. The vast majority of student close contacts which lead to 14 day quarantines are from buses where social distancing was not able to be maintained.

With the additional students on the buses the number of quarantined students will only increase over the next few months as the pandemic intensifies. If it is possible for you to drive your child to and from school on a daily basis during this time period I would like you to consider this option. Not only would it practically eliminate the possibility of your child being identified as a close contact due to his or her attending school but it would also decrease the possibility of other children in the community whose parents do not have the option to drive their children to school and must rely on the bus.

If you decide to drive your child to school on a daily basis, please contact your child's principal beforehand so they can plan accordingly (If you are already providing transportation for your child you do not have to contact your principal). Thank you for your support, working together we will be able to get through this difficult period.

Sincerely,

John J. Marciante, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools