



ATLANTA AREA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

John A. Serrano

Superintendent

---

January 12, 2021

Dear AASD Families

I hope this letter finds you and your family healthy and safe.

As you know, we shared information about our second semester reopening plans:

- **Phase 2 (Staff Return) – January 19**
- **Phase 3 (Elementary School Students Return) – January 25**
- **Phase 4 (Middle School Students Return) – February 1**
- **Phase 5 (High School Students Return) – February 8**

AASD's revised reopening plans are closely aligned with DeKalb County Schools District (where AASD is at)'s reopening plans. Since December 2020, my staff and I have been monitoring the COVID-19 community level spread data in hopes that the community spread level would gradually decrease following the winter break. Unfortunately, the hospitalization and number of cases have remained steadily high, and are actually increasing at an alarming rate each day, and we have not seen the numbers go down to a level that is acceptable and safe for the school to reopen in order to secure the safety of students and staff. Earlier this week, the DeKalb County School District recently delayed their school reopening plans until further notice. They will continue to use the virtual instructional learning model to safeguard students and staff. This is true for many Metro Atlanta school systems.

**Considering the increased COVID-19 trends, we made the difficult decision to continue our distance/remote learning instructional model for all students until further notice.** We will continue to keep you posted as information becomes available and new decisions are made in accordance with public health data and guidance from various agencies.

In the meantime, please take the time to review our updated school reopening manual which is available on our website by clicking on this link - <https://www.aasdweb.com/Page/395>

I appreciate your patience and support during this time and realize the cumulative strain remote learning puts on many families and students. Please continue to stay healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

John A. Serrano, AASD Superintendent

Cc: Special Education Directors of the school district in which the student resides

---