January 14, 2022

Dear NMSBVI Alamogordo Families,

As you know, there has been a significant increase in COVID cases throughout our state. This has also impacted our staff and students in Alamogordo. Like many other schools and districts, we are experiencing a significant shortage in our staff, including staff in Health Services and Residential life. Because of this, NMSBVI-Alamogordo will be returning to remote learning on Tuesday, January 18 for 2 weeks. We plan to resume in person learning beginning January 31th. These two weeks will provide enough time for all currently isolated and quarantined staff and students to return to school.

NMSBVI has been diligent in implementing all COVID- safe practices. We will continue to keep our commitment to the health and safety of our students and staff as a priority. We will also continue to strive for in-person learning, as we know that being in school is best for students.

Vaccines and boosters are still the best line of defense against COVID-19. Please consider getting your children and yourselves vaccinated. All educators and school staff in the state of New Mexico are required to provide proof of vaccination and boosters or are subject to mandatory surveillance testing weekly. We do offer testing, which has proven to be very effective in catching asymptomatic cases. Testing supplies are in high demand, so our supplies are dwindling. We hope to replenish those supplies as soon as possible.

We will be sending homework packets and technology for the students and your child’s teacher will contact you with class schedules. Secondary students will continue with their regular schedules. We are in contact with Alamogordo Public Schools regarding inclusion classes. For local students, NMSBVI will continue to transport students to Alamogordo Public Schools so that they can attend their inclusion classes.

NMSBVI staff will be calling each family today in order to address any questions.

Thank you for taking this journey with us,

**Patricia Beecher**

**Superintendent**

**New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired**

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