

ELPS Updates January 9, 2022

COVID Update

With last week's return to school, numerous positive COVID cases among students and staff were identified. It is likely that most of those cases, especially if diagnosed earlier in the week, are a result of winter break exposure. At this point, we believe there is very minimal transmission within the schools. We certainly can't rule out school transmission for some cases, but very, very rarely do our identified close contacts end up testing positive. As shared in Wednesday's communication, we are monitoring and evaluating each building's situation on a daily basis and are prepared to respond in the most pinpointed way possible should we identify an outbreak within a building or should recommendations from the health department change as a result of community transmission rates.

Board of Education Meeting – Monday, January 10, 2022

The ELPS Board of Education will be holding its next regular meeting Monday, January 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room in East Lansing High School. The meeting will be held in person and will be live streamed. This meeting will be the Board's Organizational Meeting for 2022.

Here is a link to access the live stream of the meeting - the video of the meeting will also be posted on this site: <https://www.nfhsnetwork.com/schools/east-lansing-high-school-east-lansing-mi>

Weekly On-Site PCR Testing

We had great response last week from our encouragement to families to register their students for our weekly on-site PCR testing! If you are new to this process, here are a couple reminders:

- If your child has tested positive for COVID in past 90 days, they should withhold from the weekly PCR testing because of the chance for a false positive result. They can restart (no need to re-enroll) after 90 days has passed.
- Test results will usually be available in 48-72 hours. Parents/guardians should receive an email indicating the results are available, and they can log into the MCC site to check the status of these results.

Please see the email sent last week from Kelly Hocquard for information on registering for weekly testing!

On-Site Booster Shot Clinic Scheduled!

We are partnering with the Ingham County Health Department to host a Booster Shot Clinic Thursday, January 31 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. at East Lansing High School. As of last week, children 12 and up are eligible for a booster shot! Booster shots are available now at many pharmacies and other locations if you'd prefer to have your child boosted sooner than Jan. 31. As soon as I have a link from the ICHD to schedule appointments, I will share it via eblast and social media.

Snow Day Decisions and Communication

As we enter the "Snow Day Season," I'd like to share some information about how the decision of whether or not to cancel school is made and how a school closing will be communicated.

1. Many weather factors are considered when determining whether or not to cancel school:

- Amount of snow (current and predicted)
- Timing of snow
- Temperature and wind chill (sustained wind chills of -20 degrees or lower will result in school closing or delay)
- Road and sidewalk conditions (including conditions for busses and young drivers)
- Other factors such as blowing and drifting, ice or freezing rain, visibility, power outages

I do a road check throughout the district beginning around 4:15 a.m. and communicate with other local superintendents and often the City of EL and/or ELPD.

2. When possible, we will make the call the night before in order to give families as much time as possible to prepare. If a decision to close schools is made the night before, it will be communicated no later than 10:00 p.m.

If the decision to close schools is made in the morning, we do our best to communicate by 5:30 a.m. (and no later than 6:00 a.m.).

3. If a decision is made to close school, the closing is communicated to staff and families via the following methods:

- Robocall to staff and families (make sure your phone number is current in PowerSchool)
- ELPS Facebook Page
- ELPS Website - main page
- Twitter - Follow me to hear it first! @ELPSSupt
- Local news media: WILX, WLNS, Fox 47, WKAR, WFMK

4. Information about other events (practices, games, concerts, etc.) will be made later in the morning and communicated through coaches and advisors and/or the district website.

Clarification on Daily State Attendance Requirements

With our lower-than-usual attendance rates at some buildings this past week, I'd like to provide some clarifying information about daily attendance requirements from the state.

1. **Bottom line... yes, these days count!**
2. To receive full per pupil funding, districts must meet 75% attendance district-wide (not by building) for each day scheduled in the district's original school calendar.
3. District-wide attendance includes all buildings, grades, and programs scheduled for instruction on a given day.
4. Rescheduled instructional days added to the end of the original school calendar are subject to 60% attendance.
5. The provided days and hours of instruction remain countable toward the minimum days and hours requirement of 180 days and 1,098 hours for all buildings, grades, and programs that held instruction even when the district does not meet the 75% attendance requirement.
6. When the district falls below the 75% attendance requirement, the district must either make up the day or report the attendance shortfall in the year-end days and hours collection. A deduction will be applied to any shortfall.
7. The deduction is applied to the percentage of attendance below the 75% requirement related to one day of state aid. (When a district does not meet the 75% attendance requirement, the adjustment to state aid is less than an adjustment for missing a full day of instruction.)

While no seat-time waiver is currently available that allows the district to go remote without a loss in state funding (like was in place for all districts in 2020-21), student and staff safety far outweigh any funding deduction we may receive. Funding is not driving the decision to offer in-person instruction – at this point, we believe that our buildings are safe places for students and staff to be. Every day last week counted toward our 180 days of required instruction – we may see a slight deduction in funding at the end of the year for the three days that we were slightly below the district 75% attendance requirement (74% Wednesday, 71% Thursday and 73% Friday), pending any allowances made for attendance requirements.

COVID-19 Reporting and Communicating

Here is a link to the district's COVID-19 dashboard. Positive school-related cases must be posted on this site within 24 hours of the district learning of the case. If we are notified of a case over the weekend, updates will be posted Monday.

<https://elps.us/our-district/district-covid-19-dashboard/>