

# ***ELPS Updates***

## ***September 5, 2021***

### **Reminder – No School Monday, September 6**

There will be no school Monday, September 6 in recognition of the Labor Day holiday.

While I previously communicated that there would be no updates this weekend, there is new and important information I wanted to share regarding COVID data, protocols and testing.

### **Board of Education Meeting – Monday, September 13, 2021**

The ELPS Board of Education will be holding its regular meeting Monday, September 13 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.

You can access the agenda using this

link: <https://meetings.boardbook.org/Public/Organization/1629>

### **New Emergency Orders from the Ingham County Health Department released Thursday, September 2**

Two Emergency Orders were released by the ICHD this past Thursday - one regarding a mask requirement and another regarding isolation and quarantine.

1. Emergency Order (Ingham 2021-2) requires that all persons in educational setting, regardless of vaccination status, consistently and properly wear a face covering while inside any enclosed building or structure of an educational institution or vehical of an educational constitution. Our current indoor universal masking requirement is in compliance with this order.

See the full order

here: <https://hd.ingham.org/Portals/HD/Home/Documents/cd/coronavirus/EOSept2-2021-2.pdf>

2. Emergency Order (Ingham 2021-3) issues a set of rules regarding isolation and quarantine. These rules include: (see link below for the complete list)

a. All persons identified with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 must isolate for 10 days after either: (a) symptom onset; or (b) date of specimen collection if asymptomatic. (not new);

b. Household close contacts of COVID-19 cases are required to quarantine for at least 10 days after last exposure to a COVID-19 case. A household member's last exposure may be the final day of isolation of the COVID-positive household member. (not new);

c. If strict mitigation measures, including universal masking, are in place, persons who are close contacts but between 3 ft. and 6 ft. can remain in school, but must be notified

of the potential exposure, wear a mask, and monitor symptoms for 14 days. (new this school year);

d. If strict mitigation measures, including universal masking, are in place, persons who are close contacts within 3 ft. may do any of the following:

1. Quarantine for 10 days and continue to monitor for symptoms for four more days (not new);
2. Quarantine for 7 days, take a COVID test (PCR or antigen test) on day 7, and return to school once a negative result is reported (not new except that an antigen test can now be used);
3. Participate in Serial Testing ("Test to Stay") to avoid quarantine. Serial testing for close contacts takes place every morning on days 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 (exposure day is Day 0). An antigen test will be administered each of these morning to the close contact individual upon their arrival to school. Provided the test result is negative each morning, the student may remain in school. (This is NEW!)

See the full order

here: <https://hd.ingham.org/Portals/HD/Home/Documents/cd/coronavirus/EOSept2-2021-3.pdf>

ELPS will work to have the Serial Testing opportunity available as quickly as possible and will notify close contacts directly to discuss this option and their current status.

### **Ongoing COVID Testing for Students and Staff**

If you signed up for staff or student ongoing COVID testing, please watch your email this week for an email from [support@testedandprotected.org](mailto:support@testedandprotected.org) titled "**Midwest Coordination Center Invitation.**"

This will allow you to register for an account to electronically sign the consent form and HIPAA form that is required before we can test an individual. This is also the account you will use to access testing results. These emails may arrive over the next few days, so please keep an eye out for it!

If you do not receive an email from [support@testedandprotected.org](mailto:support@testedandprotected.org) by this Friday, September 10, please send me an email at [dori.leyko@elps.us](mailto:dori.leyko@elps.us) with the title in the subject line "COVID TESTING." We will release the weekly testing schedule as soon as it is approved - our testers will be at each school one morning each week.

### **COVID-19 Reporting and Communicating**

During the first two weeks of school, there have been seven school-related positive cases, with a total of 20 students who have been quarantined.

**For students who are eligible for the vaccine, it's important to know that vaccinated students who are identified as close contacts DO NOT have to quarantine as long as they remain symptom free. Please let us know if you need assistance in getting your eligible student the COVID-19 vaccine.**

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 morning.

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

### **ELPS Fall 2021 Safety Protocols and COVID-19 Prevention Strategies**

Here is a link to current district safety protocols and prevention strategies. Additional information and building-specific protocols and routines will continue to be shared by principals.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YzpQZglAIRXKhqZb6bwsagYKIBvq3FNoBQUfbbZRnNQ/edit?usp=sharing>

We are continuing to implement additional safety protocols and opportunities for outdoor eating and activities at each level such as increased options for outdoor eating, adding fans to classrooms to increase air movement, and "podding" students when possible.

### **COVID-19 Guidance from the Ingham County Health Department and Ingham ISD**

The ICHD is working to update its documents to align with the new orders - I will share them once they are available. The Ingham Intermediate School District (IISD) developed these two flow charts to help explain the options available for close contacts.

[Ingham ISD Close Contact Flow Chart](#)