



January 22, 2021

SLSD Parents and Guardians,

As we continue to progress through January it is important to reflect on the fact that the District's mitigation strategies are working and our school buildings continue to remain open for in-person learning. I must take this opportunity to thank all of the members of the SLSD school community who have continued to follow the established mitigation efforts that collectively help to ensure that the district is able to maintain in-person instruction. Listed below are updates and reminders.

- **PA DOH Vaccine Update** - On Tuesday January 19th the PA DOH updated the Commonwealth's Vaccine Distribution Plan. This update significantly increased the number of individuals who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1A. While an increased number of SLSD Staff members will now qualify under the newly added classifications the bulk of the District's employees will have to continue to wait until the Commonwealth transitions to Phase 1B for their opportunity to receive a vaccination. The District will continue to meet with our local healthcare partners and DOH officials to ensure that our staff remains well informed about potential vaccine opportunities and in an effort to provide any support that the SLSD can to the ongoing regional vaccination efforts.
- **Winter Weather Closures** - With another winter weather system predicted to arrive in the Lehigh Valley early next week, I must emphasize that the SLSD will continue to monitor the potential for inclement weather closely and make appropriate school closure and or fully remote learning transition decisions based on timing and local impacts. As a reminder, the SLSD will have the ability to utilize either Fully Remote Learning or a traditional winter weather closure in the event of winter weather. The region's first winter weather event this year demonstrated that timing is everything with respect to winter weather decisions and the District will communicate with all stakeholders in a clear and timely manner.
- **Winter Sports** - The Southern Lehigh School District Winter Sports Season is well underway. While ongoing COVID-19 mitigation practices have placed limitations on fans attending these events the SLSD Athletic Department is working diligently to ensure that athletic events are live streamed. Interested community members can view SLSD Athletic Events via the District [livestream](#) page
- **Daily Health Screener** – As a reminder, each morning, prior to leaving home, **ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS** are **REQUIRED** to complete the Daily Health Screener with an at home temperature check. Any students or staff experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19 **MUST REMAIN HOME** and contact their School Nurse.
- **COVID-19 Testing** - Any Southern Lehigh household where an individual is being tested for COVID-19 **MUST** notify their SLSD School Nurse. Students or staff awaiting COVID-19 test results **SHOULD NOT** physically report to school while they await results. The SLSD nurses will provide individual guidance specific to the [Exclusion From and Return to School Guidelines](#). As a reminder, both [SLUHN](#) and [LVHN](#) offer expedited COVID-19 testing services for K-12 students and staff. However, with the demand for testing continuing to increase across the region, the timeline related to results may be extended.

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As we continue to plan for opportunities to increase in-person instruction, I am very proud of the work that our students, faculty, staff, and administration have engaged in throughout the school year. While this year continues to present one challenge after another, each of these groups have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to persevere in the face of adversity and continue to seek solutions to challenges that they never dreamed they would have to.

Have a great weekend!

Kathleen Evison

Superintendent