

EAST LONGMEADOW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

180 Maple Street
East Longmeadow, MA. 01028-2788



Achievement *Accountability*

Gordon Smith
Superintendent of Schools

Pamela Blair
Asst. Superintendent for Business

January 7, 2021

Dear ELPS Families,

As you know the East Longmeadow Public Schools will be transitioning to a hybrid model for instruction beginning on Tuesday, January 19th. Students who have opted to come into the schools for more in-person learning have been placed into a cohort (A or B), and each cohort will have a full week where they are coming into their school each day for in-person learning. The cohort in the off-week will be at home connecting to their classes remotely through live streaming. Students who have chosen to remain fully remote will also be connecting to their classes through live streaming. Our students who are currently coming into the schools on a daily basis will continue to do so. ELPS has created a calendar to help families understand the scheduled in-person weeks for each cohort, outlining the weeks that each cohort will meet. This calendar can be found at the following link: [ELPS Cohort Schedule](#) If you are unsure of your child's cohort, please contact your child's school.

The District continues to plan and implement new procedures for everyone's safety as we increase in-person learning. Three safety protocols that everyone must employ every day in order to protect ourselves and others are the wearing of masks, physical distancing, and hand hygiene. These three safety practices when practiced together ensure that we are creating as safe an environment as possible for all in the ELPS community. All of the safety protocols that we will use in all schools can be found at the following link: [ELPS Health and Safety Protocols](#)

A daily process that we ask all ELPS staff to perform is a daily self-screening, checking themselves for symptoms most common for Covid-19. Each day at home before reporting to work, our staff members should do this. We ask that parents also conduct a similar check with their children before sending them to school. We all need to be vigilant in our efforts to keep ourselves and others around us safe. The daily symptom checklist can be found at the following link: [Daily Covid Symptom Checklist and Instructions for Families](#) Additionally, Massachusetts is requiring all students to get the flu vaccination. The state Department of Public Health also has extended the deadline for students to receive a flu vaccine to **Sunday, February 28**.

The health and safety protocols that are needed on buses this year reduces the ridership to approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ or to $\frac{1}{2}$ of the full capacity. Currently, with the health and safety protocols in place, ELPS will only be able to offer bus transportation to the students who are required to be transported by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, section 68, for school bus transportation. This would include students in grades K - 6 who live two miles or more from the school they attend or students with specialized transportation in an IEP. In the next few days, we will be sending more information to these families.

The five schools will also be sending out information specific to their school over the next few days as they finalize their schedules and plans. **Please remember that Friday, January 15th is now a full professional development day for ELPS staff, and there will be no school for students.** This day will be the final preparation day before ELPS transitions to the hybrid model for instruction on Tuesday, January 19th.

Sincerely,

Gordon C. Smith
Superintendent of Schools

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