

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

April 15, 2021

Dear ELPS Families and Staff,

As we head into the April vacation week when families may be traveling out of state, please remember that the ELPS community will continue to follow our health and safety protocols for our own safety and the safety of others. This includes continuing to wear masks at all times, maintaining frequent hand washing, and to physically distancing ourselves from others.

Our safety protocols also include taking specific measures when returning from out-of-state travel. Families and staff members who may be traveling out of state in the near future **will need** to quarantine upon their return for 10 days and monitor for symptoms when returning to school on the 11th day, **or provide** their school a negative PCR Covid test or rapid Covid test (if a person is asymptomatic). Individuals traveling should get a Covid test no more than **24 to 48 hours** before returning to MA or upon their return to MA.

I have outlined other safety guidelines regarding out-of-state travel below. If you have questions, please contact my office or your child's building nurse. Recently, we have increased the support that we can provide our families, students, and staff. Ms. Ann Haskell, BSN, RN, NCSN, and recently retired school nurse from BPMS, has taken a position with ELPS to be the liaison between the District, families, and the East Longmeadow Health Department. Ms. Haskell has a wealth of knowledge and will offer great support to all who may be impacted by Covid-19. She can be reached at ann.haskell@eastlongmeadowma.gov. We really appreciate the consistent communication that we have had with our families this year.

Please review these other guidelines if they apply:

- Children 10 years and younger, must follow the household quarantine or testing options. **Please submit the parents'/guardians' negative results to the child's school nurse before the student returns to school.**
- Children 11 years and older, must produce a negative Covid test result before returning to school.
- If an individual is **fully vaccinated** 14 days prior to traveling and is not symptomatic, he/she is exempt from the testing requirement.
- If an individual has had a **positive Covid-19 test between 10 and 90 days** from the date of his/her return to MA and **has no symptoms**, he/she is exempt from the testing requirement.

The ELPS community has done an incredible job coming together and following all of the safety protocols this year keeping all of us safe. We want to be sure to continue this during the final three months of the school year.

Best regards,

Gordon C. Smith
Superintendent of Schools