

EAST LONGMEADOW PUBLIC SCHOOLS

180 Maple Street  
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*Achievement*      *Accountability*

Gordon Smith  
Superintendent of Schools

Pamela Blair  
Asst. Superintendent for Business

June 28, 2021

Dear ELPS Families and Staff Members,

I am writing to provide important information to all who are participating in ELPS summer programs. In all of our summer programming starting on July 6<sup>th</sup>, we are strongly recommending that when people are inside the buildings and working with others in close proximity people should wear masks. Masks are not required, simply strongly recommended. Masks do not need to be worn when people are outside. ELPS will continue to utilize the strategies of frequent hand washing and physical distancing whenever possible inside. We know that these strategies have been very successful in keeping ELPS students and staff safe all year. Throughout the school year, we saw no significant transmission of Covid-19 in our schools.

As I am sure everyone is aware, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has recently provided guidance to school districts for their summer programs. In the guidance, masks are no longer required. DESE is strongly encouraging the wearing of masks when indoors. Throughout the Commonwealth, the strategies of mask wearing, physical distancing, and frequent hand-washing have been very effective this year keeping people safe and healthy. As a community, East Longmeadow's positivity rate has been falling, and it is currently at .8%. The East Longmeadow Public Schools want to do all that we can to keep all in the ELPS community safe and keep this trend downward for new cases going. Our summer programs will be supplied with hand sanitizer for the classrooms and extra masks should people need them.

We know that partnering with our staff, students, and families we can be successful in having safe, effective, and fun summer programming. Thank you for your help with accomplishing this goal.

Best regards,

Gordon C. Smith

Superintendent of Schools