



# EASTERN LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

---

March 18, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members-at-Large,

The following is a COVID-19 update. Brecknock Elementary School shifted learning on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, because of increasing case counts and will return to school on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. There were three (3) cases that triggered the shift and there are four (4) additional cases that do not count toward the shift criteria (Department of Health matrix) but are of concern. Likewise, Blue Ball Elementary School had to shift learning on Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> through, Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> as a result of increased cases there. There were three (3) cases that triggered the shift and since the shift there has been one (1) additional case identified that does not count toward the shift criteria (DOH matrix) but is of concern. Currently, New Holland Elementary School has three (3) cases and the Secondary Campus has two (2) cases plus one additional case that does not count toward the shift criteria (DOH Matrix).

The good news is that nearly all of the faculty and support staff members who wished to receive a vaccine, have either received it, or will have the opportunity to do so soon. In the short term, this has placed a burden on our substitute coverage and continues to stretch our ability to keep schools open as those who receive the vaccine typically have about a 24-hour period where they experience flu-like symptoms. Therefore, the Secondary Campus will shift to remote learning for one day, Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> because of a shortage of adults to run school operations.

According to Penn Medicine officials, the County had been on a steady decline, but we as a County have plateaued in the last two weeks. I continue to implore everyone to maintain your guard against COVID-19; wear your mask, socially distance, cohort where you can, and practice good hygiene. We are hopeful that in late spring, the School District will begin operating closer to normal, but cannot if we continue to see this level of COVID-19 spread.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Hollister, Ed.D.

jwj