



# EASTERN LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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January 8, 2021

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

Happy New Year! As we welcome 2021, I believe all are hopeful that the year ahead will bring back more normalcy for the school community and community as a whole. Our current case count in the District per Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) guidelines is two (2) learners and three (3) staff members at the High School. In addition, we are significantly concerned about the number of learner cases that were reported to the District over the holiday season. In total, nearly 3 dozen learners reported positive for COVID-19 over the holiday season. While those cases, do not “count” toward required actions by the school, they indicate a significant increase of COVID-19 among families in the school community. Therefore, all families should continue to be prepared for occasional remote learning episodes over the next few weeks and possibly months ahead.

The District continues to operate at times with barely enough adults in place. We are especially concerned about the lack of bus driver substitutes, support staff aides, and classroom teacher substitutes. We are desperate for assistance in those three areas and welcome interest from anyone who believes they could serve in this capacity.

Finally, some good news. As we inch toward a more normal school year, vaccines have arrived in the New Holland Community and key school personnel have been invited to receive vaccines as early as next week. Further, the support staff members, faculty members, and administrators who have direct contact with learners on a daily basis are in “Group 1B” of vaccine distribution and those vaccines are expected to be available for those members of the organization in late January, early February. All of this contributes to our efforts toward a return to normalcy.

Again, I wish to compliment, most especially, our learners who have sacrificed so much in order to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for both themselves and our adults who serve them. We must continue as a community to do what we can to look out for one another toward our common goals.

Respectfully,

Robert M. Hollister, Ed.D.

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