



EASTERN LANCASTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

EMPOWERING LEARNERS AS GLOBAL THINKERS AND PRODUCERS

September 10, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community-at-large,

I am taking this moment to update you regarding the current Covid-19 conditions and protocols for the Eastern Lancaster County School District. As you are aware, last week Governor Wolf dictated changes in the Health and Safety plans that school districts had adopted earlier in the summer. Several updates and interpretations of his order through the Health Department promulgated after his announcement, including the last one sent at 4:08 p.m., Friday, September 3rd. Obviously, these changes left the School District Administration and Board scrambling to implement plans to meet our legal obligations. At present, the District is requiring masks of all learners, but has provided a two-week grace period for families who wish to seek a medical exemption. An updated form that makes the process a little easier for families was uploaded to the District website Wednesday afternoon. These forms must be returned no later than the end of the official school day on Friday, September 17, 2021. Mask enforcement begins on Monday, September 20, 2021. We are doing our very best to meet all individual needs for safety and comply with the law as District Counsel has advised. Further, we are exploring measures that we used last year to accommodate families and will have more to share in the coming weeks.

Covid-19 has a presence in the School District. Currently our case counts are as follows:
(as of Friday, 9/10/2021 9:00 a.m.)

Blue Ball Elementary

Total 5 positive cases - 1 staff, 4 learners (3 in the building during infectious period)

Brecknock Elementary

Total 1 positive case - 1 learner (0 in the building during infectious period)

New Holland Elementary

Total 7 positive cases - 3 staff, 4 learners (4 in the building during infectious period)

Garden Spot Secondary Campus (7-12)

Total 18 positive cases - 2 staff, 16 learners (12 in the building during infectious period)

I wish to thank everyone who has acknowledged the difficult position that the Administration and the Board has been placed in by the Governor's action. So many of you have been most supportive, gracious, and patient as we work through these challenges. All the uncertainty and the feeling of loss of control creates fear and anxiety. We must do our best to shield our children from our anxieties in order to minimize this impact on our children. As always, I will do my best to communicate with you changes as conditions or our obligations change in the District.

Most Respectfully,

Robert M. Hollister, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
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