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SLSD Parents and Guardians,

The month of February certainly started with a bang! I hope everyone has had a chance to dig out from the significant winter weather that our region experienced this week.

- **National School Counseling Week** - As National School Counseling Week comes to an end, I must take this opportunity to thank all of our School Counselors for all that they do to guide and advocate for our students. The nature of their work means that most people do not see the great lengths they continually go to support our students. The District is very fortunate to have such wonderful School Counselors to support our students in each of the SLSD school buildings.
- **Winter Weather Closures** - The SLSD Support Services Department has worked tirelessly this week to ensure that the grounds of the School District are safe for students and staff to return. Thank you to all of the Support Services Staff for their diligent efforts. While our campus was cleared and ready for school by Wednesday, there were many roads that were single lane with high snow banks and narrow intersections, meaning our buses could not safely navigate through the district. As a reminder decisions about winter weather closures take into account a variety of factors including weather conditions, road conditions (both primary and secondary roads), and the ability for District transportation to navigate roadways. Each of these factors must be considered prior to making any decision.
- **14-Day Case Counts** - Following consultation with the PA Department of Health and PA Department of Education, each SLSD School Building with active cases in the Rolling 14-Day COVID-19 Case Count will be reset to zero upon the physical return of staff and students to in-person school following the current winter weather closures. The Rolling 14-day COVID-19 Case Count will remain at zero until a school building reports a case that is physically present during the PADOH defined infectious period. Additional information about the [Recommendations for Pre-K to 12 Schools Following Identification of a Case\(s\) of COVID-19](#) and the [SLSD Rolling 14-Day Case Count Information](#) can be found using those links.
- **Local and Regional Drug Trends Presentation** - Last week, the SLHS Administration hosted a virtual presentation featuring representatives from the Caron Foundation and the Upper Saucon Township Police Department on Local and Regional Drug Trends. An archived recording of this powerful presentation is available to be accessed via this [link](#).
- **Winter Sports** - As was previously shared in the 1/22 Superintendents Communication, the Southern Lehigh School District Athletic Department is working diligently to ensure that Winter Athletic Events are live streamed. Interested community members can view SLSD Athletic Events via the District [livestream](#) page.
- **Daily Health Screener** – **STUDENTS AND STAFF** are **REQUIRED** to complete the [Daily Health Screener](#) with an at home temperature check. Any students or staff experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19 **MUST REMAIN HOME** and contact their School Nurse.



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- **COVID-19 Testing** - Any Southern Lehigh household where an individual is being tested for COVID-19 **MUST** notify their SLSD School Nurse. Students or staff awaiting COVID-19 test results **SHOULD NOT** physically report to school while they await results. The SLSD nurses will provide individual guidance specific to the [Exclusion From and Return to School Guidelines](#). As a reminder, both [SLUHN](#) and [LVHN](#) offer expedited COVID-19 testing services for K-12 students and staff. However, with the demand for testing continuing to increase across the region, the timeline related to results may be extended.

I continue to be proud of the hard work and diligence that our students and staff display during these challenging times. The entire Southern Lehigh School District Community continues to come together to overcome what has been a very difficult year and we must continue to support one another every step of the way.

Have a great weekend!

Kathleen Evison

Superintendent