



August 14, 2020

SLSD Parents and Guardians,

On August 10, the Board of School Directors approved updates to both the [District Health and Safety Plan](#) and the [Athletic Health and Safety Plan](#). This process continues to be guided by science and advice from local medical professionals alongside a review of state and federal guidelines. The District continues to support the ongoing resocialization workouts by our Athletic programs and the summer preparations of our Marching Band. Currently, all athletic activities are following the two week delay of the fall sports season put in place by the PIAA. Any future athletic or extracurricular activity decisions will be based upon guidance from local and state officials and vetted by our Pandemic Planning Team.

Additionally, on Monday, the PA Department of Education provided guidance for [Determining Instructional Models During the Covid-19 Pandemic](#). These recommendations utilize two standard public health metrics: incidence rate and the percent positivity of diagnostic testing. It is recommended that districts use county data from the PA COVID-19 Early Warning Monitoring System Dashboard to determine their instructional format. Prior to this guidance, the District selected a Hybrid Instructional Model to ensure social distancing at 6ft in all instructional spaces. Under these new guidelines, a community in the Moderate Level of Community Spread Criteria is recommended to complete instruction in either a Hybrid Model or a Fully Remote Model. We recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting structural modifications have presented our students, staff, and families with distinct challenges. We remain committed to supporting families facing hardships by connecting them with community agencies to help mitigate these difficulties. Those families facing hardship should reach out to their building administrator or their child's school counselor to discuss any support that the District may be able to provide. Our Pandemic Planning Team will continue to analyze the updates within this data to inform future decisions. That said, we must all remain prepared for potential changes to school schedules, including the closure of schools depending on alterations within this data.

As a reminder, the physical return to school will require a partnership amongst all Spartans. The entire school community **MUST** follow all recommended hygiene practices and social distancing measures. I strongly encourage that your family becomes familiar with the following:

- [Daily Health Screener](#) – Prior to leaving home, all SLSD students and staff are required to complete a daily COVID-19 Screener that includes a temperature check. Any staff or students experiencing COVID-19 symptoms **MUST** follow the guidance present on the screener and should **NOT** report to school/work.

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- [Exclusion From and Return to School Guidelines](#) - This document provides information about the guidelines that the District will use in determining which scenarios will require an exclusion from school and the criteria that will need to be met in order for a student or staff member to return to school following a period of quarantine.
- **Face Coverings** – For the safety of our entire community, all students and staff are required to wear a face covering in accordance with the PA DOH’s Universal Face Covering Order, unless a student with disabilities whose IEP or 504 teams have granted an exception. District families should reinforce these expectations with students and practice mask use with their child(ren).
- **Transportation Assignments** - As a reminder, all SLSD students will receive a transportation assignment regardless of a family's intention to transport their child(ren) to and from school. These assignments are made to ensure that transportation is available in the event of an emergency.

The District Administration, Staff and Teachers continue to work diligently to plan meaningful educational experiences for all Spartans. We appreciate your continued patience, input, feedback, and understanding.

Kathleen T. Evison
Superintendent