



January 15, 2021

SLSD Parents and Guardians,

The Southern Lehigh School District has successfully completed two weeks of instruction since the return from Winter Break. Although a small feat, the SLSD was one of only a handful of Districts in Lehigh County that returned for in-person learning on 1/4/21. The success of this endeavor is reflective of the perfect opportunity to again **THANK** each and every member of the SLSD Community for your continued efforts in helping to ensure our students are able to remain in schools for in-person instruction. We continue to recognize that virtual learning, in many cases, requires extra diligence and discipline from our students, staff, and parents/guardians. We continue to appreciate the critically important support that each and every one of you are providing during this unprecedented school year. Listed below are updates and reminders.

- **PA DOH Vaccine Update** - The District continues to meet with our local healthcare partners to ensure that our staff are well informed about potential vaccine opportunities when the Commonwealth officially transitions from Phase 1A to Phase 1B. The transition to Phase 1B represents one of the critical steps forward toward an increase in in-person instructional opportunities for the staff and students of the Southern Lehigh School District.
- **Hybrid Shift Schedule** - Previously announced in the **November 13** Superintendent's Communication, the SLSD will shift in-person instruction during weeks that school buildings are closed on a holiday Monday. As a result, Friday, January 22 **WILL NOW** have in-person instruction for students with last name A-L and remote learning for students with last name M-Z. Additional changes may be shared in future communications.
- **Daily Health Screener** – As a reminder, each morning, prior to leaving home, **ALL STAFF AND STUDENTS** 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.
- **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.

As the district transitions into the second semester, I wanted to affirm that the Southern Lehigh School District plans to continue in-person instruction in all schools as much as possible. While many factors remain unknown, the Southern Lehigh School District is engaged in instructional planning that will add additional in-person instructional opportunities for our interested students in the future.

Have a great weekend!

Kathleen Evison
Superintendent