
EPPING SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Good afternoon everyone,

I wish to share with you a couple of updates. During the Board meeting next week a recommendation will be made to continue with our 4x1 Phase 3 Instructional Model. I wish to thank the Task Force and the sub-committee for their work on this proposal. This model has been working for our students, and staff, and was overwhelmingly supported in our recent survey. Continuing with this model will allow us to have some student contact time as well as time to plan and meet with colleagues on this remote day once a week. It is our hope that this plan will be approved and put in place for Friday, December 4, 2020. Friday's were supported by over 80% of the respondents as the day for remote instruction.

The Governor spoke yesterday and added a new "leisure travel" option I wish to inform you about. During the holiday season any travel outside of New England required a fourteen day quarantine period. The new option if a person travels outside of New England is a seven day quarantine and a negative COVID test between the fifth and seventh day of this quarantine. DHHS is no longer recommending immediate testing due to the non-contagious period immediately following exposure. The new recommendations are to get tested at least five days after known or expected exposure. If you plan to travel please inform your building administrator so we can make plans to meet the Governors and DHHS travel requirements.

In order to assist staff and remain as flexible as possible in these unpredictable times please continue to fill out the pink form asking approval for remote instruction due to child care, or quarantining requirements. It is important to get prior approval because if we are short staffed in order to shift to remote instruction this must be done the night before and not the day of.

Once the attendance reports come in at 6:30 a.m. or so it is already way too late to shift to remote instruction. Busses, staff, students, and families are already under way at this point and it is not possible to shift to remote instruction the morning of. This is why I stress the need to notify your school of any absence with as much advance notice as possible.

Lastly, I am pleased to inform you that at this time no additional cases of COVID at EHS, (or any building) have been reported. All test results that have come in have been negative and no cases of transmission have resulted from these two unrelated cases. The last remaining results should come in this weekend and we can assess if any change is needed for Monday.

I understand how stressful this week has been for many of our staff. It is a scary time for all of us. These times weigh heavily on all of us. I wish to say thank you for all your work, effort, and commitment to your students. I wish everyone a quiet, and relaxing weekend!

Sincerely,
Bill Furbush

The mission of the Epping School District is to focus on the potential of every student and engage each to be passionate, confident learners who demonstrate competence and have strength of character to reach their highest aspirations and thoughtfully contribute to a diverse and changing world.
