



NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

50 EAST DIVISION STREET • NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
TELEPHONE (814) 725-8671 • FAX (814) 725-9380

Dr. Michele Spurgeon Hartzell, Superintendent

Mr. Jeffrey Fox, Business Manager

Mrs. Shelley Allen, Administrative Assistant

November 2, 2020

Re: Inclement Weather Procedures/COVID Update (page two)

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As the winter season approaches, we want to assure you that the school district takes the decision-making process to cancel or delay the start of school very seriously. We attempt to make this decision as soon as possible. The safety of our students and staff is the most important consideration when making this decision. As weather conditions throughout the district vary depending on location, if you feel at any time that the weather conditions where you live are not safe for your child to attend school, please keep them at home and use your best judgment in making this decision. If you have a young driver, please speak with them and remember that bus transportation is available in lieu of driving in snow and ice.

In most instances we will begin with a “two-hour delay” and monitor the conditions very closely from that point. There are times when the decision can be made the night before and, when it is possible, this will occur. Rarely will a decision be made to send students home early from school once they are here. Our buildings are safe and supervised places. Once a decision is made, the district’s Sapphire phone notification system will be activated. Please log in to the Sapphire parent portal and make sure your contact information is correct or make changes as needed. Messages will also be posted on the district’s website and official Facebook pages as well as through local radio and television stations. The website will be our first place of notification.

Please note that if we have no school or dismiss early due to inclement weather, the buildings will be closed to the public as well as all practices, games, events, after school and evening activities will be cancelled. There may also be times when school has been in session for the full day but evening activities must be cancelled due to the weather. This information will be posted the District website at nesd1.org and our official Facebook page as well as through afternoon announcements to the students.

Please be patient as buses may be delayed due to weather conditions. Again, we will do our best to keep you informed. If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this letter or need any other assistance, please feel free to call your child’s respective building principal or call my office directly at 725-8671.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell
Superintendent





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Page 2 - COVID-19 UPDATE – November 2, 2020 – PLEASE READ

We wanted to provide an update regarding COVID-19. As you are aware, many buildings and schools have been closed in our local area. As a reminder, our number one goal is to protect our students and staff. The Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) has seen an increase in the number of positive COVID cases over the past few weeks. According to the ECDOH, several of these cases have been attributed to family and student parties/gatherings. We understand that the holidays are around the corner; however, we are asking that you protect our students, teachers, and staff by following the recommended guidelines of the CDC, and the State and local Departments of Health.

We want to keep our children in school; however, we would like to remind you to have a plan in place for your child(ren) in case we have to close a classroom, building, or the district. In most instances, this may be with little to no warning. In the event a specific building needs to close as a recommendation from the ECDOH, our internet café students would report to the following buildings: High School internet café students to the elementary cafeteria, Elementary Center and Middle School internet café students would report to the high school auditorium. We will do our best to implement live-streaming in order to keep education going during this time of building specific closures.

As a reminder, anyone who believes that they have been in contact with anyone who may have symptoms of COVID-19 or experiences one or more symptoms from Group A or two or more symptoms from Group B below, they must stay home. Please make sure to notify Dr. Karns and/or your building nurse.

<u>GROUP A</u>	<u>GROUP B</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cough • Shortness of breath • Difficulty breathing • New olfactory disorder • New taste disorder 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever (≥ 100.4 F oral or equivalent) • Chills • Rigors • Myalgia • Headache • Sore throat • Nausea or vomiting • Diarrhea • Fatigue • Congestion or runny nose

Please be mindful of our district safety plan and please follow the local, state, and national guidelines as our number one goal is to keep our students and staff safe, especially over the holidays. We want to once again thank you for your understanding as we navigate through this pandemic together.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, Superintendent &
Dr. Steven Karns, Co-principal and Co-Pandemic Coordinator

