

February 25, 2021

Good afternoon,

We want to provide the following reminders regarding protocols, possible schedule impact for vaccinations, sports, and budget.

CASES, TRAVEL ADVISORY and QUARANTINE

If you plan to travel outside of Connecticut, please remember to check the Governor's Travel Advisory (<https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>). Students who travel to any state listed on the advisory are required to quarantine following their return. During the period of quarantine, students are expected to participate in remote learning until they are able to return to in-person classes. East Windsor is still holding to the 14-day quarantine after consultation with the local health district and the medical advisor. This is done to try to limit close contacts and possible increased numbers of positive COVID 19 cases as the incubation period for COVID 19 is still 14 days. While we continue to monitor the data for the town and region, please keep this in mind as you may begin making plans for April vacation.

Since the last parent update, we have had 6 positive cases in the district.

As a reminder, when we first moved from a hybrid to a 4-day-per-week schedule, I shared that having more students in school would likely result in an increase of students being identified as close contacts. The definition of a close contact is anyone within 6ft of a COVID positive person for 15 minutes or more consecutively or across a 24- hour period even if masks are worn. Anyone identified as a close contact is required to quarantine as noted above.

I would like to encourage all families to continue utilizing mitigation strategies of mask wearing, hand washing and maintaining distance when possible. The Department of Public Health has shared that this is not the time to relax our guard when it comes to COVID 19. The positivity rate in CT is decreasing and the vaccine is becoming more available but the risk of contracting COVID still exists and our goal is to keep our students in school as much as possible. Thank you so much for your ongoing assistance in this.

Our nurses are often contacting families at night or on the weekends to do contact tracing from their home phones and therefore may block their phone numbers. Please check your voice mails if you miss a call or receive a call from a blocked or unknown number. It is important that our nursing staff speak with families as soon as possible so we thank you for checking messages and contacting them as quickly as possible.

ATHLETICS

As reminder, our basketball games are being live streamed. You can find the links on the East Windsor High School Athletics page of our website at www.eastwindsork12.org. Check it out – the links for this week’s games are available!

For students in middle school or high school, please make sure to check the Athletics page for updates and information about signing up in Family ID.

STAFF VACCINATIONS AND SCHEDULE

Gov. Lamont has changed vaccination eligibility for staff working in our schools to begin March 1st. At this time, our Health Care Coordinator, Mrs. Gage and I are working with our health district to plan for vaccinating East Windsor school staff. The process is just beginning and there are meetings scheduled to discuss more information as it becomes available. Please be reminded that East Windsor may need to move to a remote learning day to allow our staff to be vaccinated. It is likely that most of the instruction would be asynchronous that day – meaning students may be accessing recordings, online resources or other instruction that may not be face to face with their teacher. Vaccinations will be received by the health district and we will need to make decisions quickly regarding the schedule. I will certainly provide as much notice as possible to families as I realize a remote day is inconvenient, especially for our elementary students. Thank you for understanding.

BUDGET

The Board of Education voted on the FY22 Budget at their meeting last night. They voted to request a 2.9% increase over last year’s local appropriation. A copy of the voted budget request will be added to the East Windsor Public Schools website at www.eastwindsork12.org. The BOE is scheduled to present the school budget to the Board of Finance on March 17.

Thank you, and have a nice weekend!

Christine