

October 15, 2020

East Windsor Parent Update

RAMPING UP STUDENT IN-PERSON LEARNING

At the Board of Education meeting last evening, I shared the overview of how students will increase their time for in-school learning.

October 19—All high needs students—students with previously identified special education needs, students who receive English Language education, and students with no access to Internet (as already reported to the district) will return to school on October 19.

A School Messenger phone call has gone out to those families. If you did not receive a call but your child(ren) are included in one of those groups mentioned above, please contact your child's school. If you are not able to send your child Monday for some reason, please share that with their school so we know to expect them going forward.

All other students from Cohort A who regularly attend on Mondays and Tuesdays should continue with their schedule.

We will begin adding students in other grade levels in two-week intervals. On Monday, I will identify what grade levels will increase their days next, allowing a few more days for families to choose to remain with their current decision to have students attend school or opt out or to make a change. Please see page 2.

The plan is to have all students back for 4 days a week before Thanksgiving.

This plan is subject to change based on the prevalence of COVID 19 in the area, town or schools or based on guidance from the Department of Education or Governor.



Please check the Re-Opening Information page of the East Windsor Public School website at www.eastwindsork12.org for updated resources related to COVID 19 and other issues related to the start of the new year.

Thank you

More on Ramping Up In-Person Learning

A survey was sent out to all families last week asking you to identify whether your child(ren) will remain with their current school attendance plan or if parents are making a change—such as moving from in person to fully remote or fully remote to in person—as we plan to increase student instructional days for in-person learning.

It is important that you complete this form so we may more accurately identify class sizes and adjust process and procedure within our buildings. We also want to keep the bus company informed of how many students will be on the East Windsor bus runs.

This weekend will be the last chance to make a selection before we determine in which order we add grade levels to in-person learning and the specific dates. You can access the link in the email that was sent on Oct 13 or you can find it in the Parent Portal under the Forms tab. The link was sent to the primary email we have in our records.

A few things to consider as we increase the number of students in our buildings:

- We will move to a 4 day a week schedule, with Wednesdays remaining remote learning days. These days will primarily be independent learning activities.
- We will have reduced space between students in classrooms as students return
- All other mitigation strategies, such as mask wearing, hand hygiene, ensuring adequate ventilation and staying home when sick will continue to be in place as they are now
- We will continue to have 6 ft between students for mask breaks or when they are eating
- Our cleaning and disinfecting protocols are following DPH guidelines and will continue as we have been
- Students will have assigned seats on the buses to help with contact tracing if needed
- As grade levels are scheduled to return, we will no longer have a hybrid option—for example, once grade 9 is scheduled to return all grade 9 students would either need to come to school or choose to opt out

We also need to be aware that the number of close contacts from one case would likely be higher with increased numbers of students—the result would be a higher number of students or staff requiring quarantine for 14 days. Families need to identify a plan in case your child has to quarantine or be part of a whole class that must be home for a period of time.

Public on School Grounds

Please be reminded that members of the public are not allowed on school grounds while school activities are continuing or students are in session. This includes during athletic practices or the presence of FRC on site. This is for the safety of all of our students. Thank you so much

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please ensure that the East Windsor Public Schools has accurate phone numbers for parents or guardians of our students. This is critical if we need to communicate with you regarding any type of illness or if your child is identified as a close contact of someone with a positive COVID 19 test.

CONTACT TRACING AND CLOSE CONTACTS

Anyone who is within 6 ft of someone who tests positive for COVID 19 is considered a close contact. If your child is a close contact, you will receive a phone call from either one of our school nurses or staff from the local health district. It is critical that you return these phone calls as soon as possible. While it is likely going to be a call from an unfamiliar number, please check for voice mails. Our ability to communicate with families is critical at that point in the contact tracing.

Students identified as close contacts must remain home for 14 days.

TESTING AND RETURN TO SCHOOL

Any student who is tested for COVID 19 must remain home until the test results of a PCR test are received. The PCR test is different from an antigen test.

We have received some questions regarding the two types of tests so have attached the district protocol for students who are sick, with additional clarification to hopefully address those questions.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school nurse.