



Evesham Township School District

Meland Administration Building, 25 South Maple Avenue, Marlton, NJ 08053

www.evesham.k12.nj.us · (856) 983-1800 · Fax # (856) 983-2939

Dr. Justin Smith, Superintendent
Mr. John Recchinti, School Business Administrator

Ms. Danielle T. Magulick, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Mr. Richard G. Dantine, Jr., Director of Personnel

January 6, 2022

Dear ETSD Staff and Families,

Highlights: Staff Shout Out; What conditions permit temporary remote learning; What it means that our region is in Red/Very High status; Family Contingency Plans; Friendly Reminder: Vacc Clinic Sunday, Jan. 9 at Rice, 9 am - 1 pm, and Van Zant, 2 pm - 6 pm; Friendly reminders from prior Updates.

Staff Shout Out

This Shout Out is for every single staff member. Communication for our nurses is 24/7. Our teachers are pivoting daily to accommodate remote learning for students quarantining. Our administrators are continually finding ways to work through vacancies and other challenges. Our secretaries are non stop. Every role, every person. Thank you to each and every staff member. A piston in these efforts is a common conviction that students benefit from school continuing in person, balancing health and safety as we always do. Statistics nationwide, and first hand understandings, show damage has come from school closures. You are doing tremendous good.

What conditions permit temporary remote learning

I would like to reiterate that remote learning is not permitted by our state for individual students as a standing option for families, but rather is only triggered by a particular covid-related instance such as close contact quarantine. Specifically, remote learning is only permitted for a student who is quarantining due to being covid positive or being a close contact, through exposure either in or out of school, or for a student who is quarantining while awaiting covid test results. While a fully vaccinated, non-symptomatic close contact is permitted per state guidance to attend school in person, a parent may nonetheless choose to have their student in that case stay home and learn remotely out of caution, for the length of the close contact quarantine. What all these instances have in common is a finite end date for the remote learning, based on the length of quarantine. Conversely, remote learning is not allowable for a student who is home not feeling well, but is not a close contact, is not covid positive, or is not awaiting test results.

I wrote this [Letter to Gov. Murphy 8.19.21](#) after the state announced this summer that virtual learning was no longer a choice for families in 2021-22 as it was in the 2020-21 school year. I did not receive a reply. I did receive emails of support from our families.



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What it means that our region is in Red/Very High status

Today's [COVID Activity Level Report 1.6.22](#) shows our region, like all state regions, to be at the Very High/Red level. The NJ Department of Health released this document [Updates for K-12 Schools: Isolation/Quarantine Timeframes and Recommendations for Very High COVID-19 Activity Levels](#) on Dec. 30, 2021. Its recommendations on page 2 read as below and do not include going remote. Our district's response to each recommendation is in purple font.

NJDOH recommends that in addition to following current NJDOH guidance, K-12 schools located in regions with very high COVID-19 CALI activity levels should:

- o Continue to adhere to mask mandates as outlined in EO 251. **YES.**
- o Conduct routine COVID-19 screening testing of all unvaccinated students and staff according to Public Health Recommendations for Implementing COVID-19 Screening Testing in K-12 Schools. **NO for students. YES for staff (as already required by Executive Order 253).**
- o Continue to promote layered prevention strategies such as physical distancing, screening testing, handwashing, cleaning, improved ventilation, staying home when sick, etc. **YES.**
- o Limit participation in extracurricular activities to those students and staff with up-to-date COVID-19 vaccination per Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations. **NO. This would punish unvaccinated students. Also, this would make it harder to find staff to coach and advise, and our district greatly appreciates the efforts of our staff who coach and advise extracurricular activities.**
- o Conduct COVID-19 screening testing of students and staff, regardless of vaccination status, twice weekly for participation in all extracurricular activities. **NO.**

Beyond these NJDOH recommendations, effective Monday, Jan. 10 and until further notice, spectators for ETSD MS sports events will be limited to household/family members only. DMS and MMS will communicate this adjustment with their students.

Family Contingency Plans

It would be prudent for families to consider contingency plans for if our district has to go remote. That would be a last resort. We would give as much notice as possible.



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Friendly Reminder: Vacc Clinic Sunday, Jan. 9 at Rice, 9 am - 1 pm, and Van Zant, 2 pm - 6 pm

More info: [Walmart COVID Vacc Clinic flyer Jan. 9.pdf](#)

Why offer clinics?

- Saves time and stress for families who would otherwise seek individual appointments on their own. Nov. clinic = 298 vaccinations, Dec. clinic = 368 vaccinations.
- Can be more comforting for kids in a school setting (with fun therapy dogs and a chance to see classmates and familiar faces) rather than a doctor's office or elsewhere
- Supports in-person learning since fully vaccinated individuals do not have to quarantine as close contacts unless showing symptoms, per NJDOH schools guidance

Voluntary opportunity. No appointment necessary. Open to everyone ages 5 and up, 2nd shot, 1st shot, booster. Boosters also available for ages 12-15. No cost, no pressure. If pre-registration online presents difficulties, Walmart advises to skip it and just show up. Printed copies of the forms linked in the flyer will be at Rice and Van Zant on Jan. 9.

Friendly reminders from prior Updates

- Community Activities: https://www.evesham.k12.nj.us/community/community_activities
- [Weather-Related Information for ETSD Parents, 2021-22](#)
- [Free Dental Services for Ages 13 & Under, 2.4.22](#)

Sincerely,

Dr. Justin Smith
Superintendent of Schools