

Date: November 24, 2020

Dear EHPS Community,

I am writing to you today to provide another update on our ongoing adaptations of our plans to ReOpen EHPS. As we move into a holiday break, we are faced by another moment in which our district needs to pivot to continue to work to educate our students in the safest and most effective manner possible. We recognize the challenge that continued changes create on family/life/work routines and appreciate your flexibility in advance as we adjust to evolving conditions.

Starting Monday, November 30, 2020 and extending through January 19, 2021, EHPS will cancel In-Person classes and shift to a Remote Learning schedule for all students, Pre-K through grade 12. While our current practice of mitigation and short-term closure has proven effective in limiting the spread of the virus within our schools, we are facing increasing challenges of maintaining an adequate staffing profile to continue to deliver In-Person learning. Our goal over the next two months will be to re-evaluate our staffing configurations and get our students back to school. We believe that this adaptation is a vital, incremental next step to ReOpening our schools and to providing our students with a high-quality educational experience during this pandemic.

Following the Thanksgiving Holiday (11/30/20), all students should log in to their teacher's/teachers' Google Classroom page(s). Pre-K and Elementary students will follow the Remote Learning Schedule that is posted on the home page of their assigned school. Students in grades 6-12 will follow their regular school schedule. Please note the important details below to ease this transition:

Adaptation of our Pre-K/Elementary School Model (PK-5)

- Current In-Person Learners (IPL) will transition back to the Remote Learning Experience (RLE) model that was used during the first two weeks of school. As such, students will benefit from five (5) days of synchronous (live) instruction with their teachers. As such, please note that we will no longer be following the Reduced Enrollment Model (REM—A Day/B Day schedule.)
- Please note that students who currently participate in our Remote Learning Experience (RLE) Program will not be affected by this transition and will keep their current schedule.

Adaptation of our Secondary School Model (Grades 6-12)

- Current In-Person Learners (IPLs) will transition back to the Remote Learning Experience (RLE) model, similar to that which was used for the first two weeks of school. However, this adaptation will remove the Reduced Enrollment Model (REM—A Day/B Day schedule) and will provide all former IPL students with five (5) days of synchronous (live) instruction with their teachers. Students will continue to follow their regular school schedule and will attend all of their classes every day.
- Please note that we will also remove the Reduced Enrollment Model (REM—A Day/B Day schedule) for current secondary RLE Learners. As such, RLE learners will now receive five (5) days of synchronous (live) instruction with all of their teachers.

Staffing Considerations

- During this period of Remote Learning, EHPS instructional staff, including teachers, paraprofessionals, nurses, tutors and behavior managers are permitted to work from home. School administrators, secretaries, IT staff, campus safety, custodial/maintenance and other staff will continue to report to their assigned building. School buildings will remain open to all staff who wish to work from their classrooms.
- Staff will be receiving additional directions regarding job specific duties and expectations during this period of In-Person Class Cancellation. All staff who are working at home are expected to work during normal contracted hours, be fully available to school and district administration, and participate fully in all school and district meetings. Specific expectations for certified and non-certified staff will be shared by the district's Assistant Superintendent of Elementary and the Deputy Superintendent.

Over the next week, our school principals will be providing additional guidance for students, staff, and families. In addition, guidance will be provided in terms of how this model will be implemented for students with significant special needs.

General Reminders:

- **Safety:** While this model adaptation was necessitated by staffing shortages, we are also carefully monitoring public transmission data. Last week the state released new data that East Hartford reflected an average rate of 51.4 new cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 population over the last 14 days. While we have managed to successfully mitigate this virus within our schools, we cannot overstate the importance of our community efforts to respond appropriately. We ask that you be particularly mindful of this as you celebrate the holiday and as your children transition to home learning. Please avoid large social gatherings, get-togethers and situations that allow the virus to be transmitted. The virus is real, it's dangerous for you and your loved ones, and it should be taken seriously. As we work to continue to ReOpen our schools, this community emphasis is a vital action that must be followed.
- **Tips for Learning at Home:** As your child participates in the RLE Program, here's a list of things you may implement to support your child's learning at home:
 - Assist your child in identifying a quiet space to complete class assignments.
 - Follow the schedule/structure for learning articulated in the school RLE's model. Your child needs to be online and participating in activities as directed by this schedule.
 - Remain calm and reassuring.
 - Communicate with the teacher often and actively.

Thanks for continuing to recognize the importance of working together as we fight this virus. We look forward to working with you in the RLE Program Model and to getting our students back in school.

Sincerely,



Nathan D. Quesnel

Superintendent

East Hartford Public Schools