



Holmes, Donna <dholmes@palisadesd.org>

Community Message - December 14, 2020

1 message

Dr. Bridget O'Connell <superintendent@palisadesd.org>

Mon, Dec 14, 2020 at 6:01 PM

Reply-To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

To: dholmes@palisadesd.org

Dear Palisades Families,

The purpose of this message is to share information regarding several topics of importance for families as we near the holiday break. I will be addressing the concept of emergency vs planned virtual days for all students, as well as the possibility of weather-related closings for our district. Additionally, I wanted to provide you with a few reminders from our nurses and the Department of Health for your holiday planning.

I am truly thankful for your support and commitment to the health and wellbeing of our school community which is being demonstrated in the relatively low number of positive cases we have been following since the beginning of November (when we started to see cases of COVID-19 pop up in our schools). I am very proud of the hard work and dedication of our entire school community in supporting student learning - both face to face and virtually. Also, I am so impressed by the flexibility and commitment of our students who are doing their part in keeping our schools and programs moving forward.

Inclement Weather (Snow) Days, Emergency Days and Planned Days for Students:

For the 2020 - 2021 school year, the Palisades School District received approval to count days of virtual (at home) learning as school days, so long as we continue teaching and learning and monitoring student attendance. Below please find a general overview of what is covered in the [attached document](#) which fully explains what you can expect for virtual days - emergency or planned. The attached document is broken down into 3 main areas - inclement weather (snow days), emergency virtual days, and planned virtual days.

Inclement Weather (Snow) Days:

Keep in mind that inclement weather (snow) days are still a viable option for this school year. On a day where I close schools for inclement weather (snow day), there will be no instruction for students (both face to face and cyber academy). The first inclement weather (snow) day will not be made up, since we have 181 student days in the calendar and the state only requires 180 days of instruction. Inclement weather (snow) days thereafter will be made up according to the calendar, which lists make up days as February 16th, April 5th and then the end of the school year.

Emergency Virtual Days:

Please note that I am going to make every effort to not extend the school year due to snow days. In order to do this it is very important for students and staff to bring their chromebooks home each day so students can engage in learning during emergency virtual days.

In the event that school(s) or the district must close without much notice, I may call for an emergency virtual day. This type of day may be called due to COVID in which case only a specific building will be closed OR weather-related in which case all buildings are closed. In this case, we will operate on a two-hour delayed schedule. This will afford teachers time to prepare for the day.

Planned Virtual Days:

Planned virtual days are ones that are announced at a Board meeting, included in the district calendar and distributed to all families in advance. These days do not run on a 2-hour delayed schedule, but follow the normal school schedule.

Again, for specific information regarding the days described above, please review the document that I have attached.

Nurse Email Information for COVID-19 Issues:

As you are aware, our school nurses are monitoring the following email address for COVID-related issues - covidnurse@palisadesd.org. They will be monitoring this email account over the weekends and the holiday break so that we remain up to date with any information you report regarding positive testing or students who are symptomatic and being tested. By notifying us quickly, you will help us to expedite our case investigation and notify any close contacts.

Please use this email to send any requested documents regarding COVID-19 so that your children's status can be updated before the start of school on the next face to face school day. To help us quickly manage the information you share, include your student's name and building in the subject line of the email. You can also use this email to contact the district nurses with any questions regarding COVID-19.

Travel Information Reminder: (order issued by the Secretary of Health on November 25, 2020)

- Travelers over age 11 entering Pennsylvania from locations outside of the state, including Pennsylvanians who are returning home from locations outside of the state, are required to produce evidence of a negative COVID-19 test or place themselves in travel quarantine for 14 days upon entering, unless they receive a negative test result during the 14-day travel quarantine period.
- If someone cannot get a test or chooses not to, they must quarantine for 14 days upon arrival in Pennsylvania.
- This does NOT apply to:
 - Individuals traveling to and from the Commonwealth for the purposes of work.
 - Individuals who are returning to the Commonwealth after traveling outside the Commonwealth for less than 24 hours.
 - Individuals traveling to and from the Commonwealth for medical reasons, including individuals providing comfort and support to a patient.
 - Military personnel traveling to the Commonwealth by order or directive of a state or Federal military authority.
 - Individuals in transit through the Commonwealth to another destination, provided that the time spent in the Commonwealth is only the amount of time necessary to complete the transit, make use of travel services, such as a highway rest stop, or make necessary travel connections.
 - Individuals traveling to comply with a court order, such as child custody, or other exemptions issued by guidance.
- View the amended [Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health for Mitigation Relating to Travel](#).

Thank you for your cooperation and support. All the best to you and family this holiday season!

Warm regards,



Dr. Bridget O'Connell

Superintendent

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