

Shaler Area School District

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March 19, 2021

Dear Shaler Area families,

This week, we successfully expanded 4-day in-person instruction to include Shaler Area Elementary School. It is so exciting to see more students back in our buildings, and we look forward to increasing in-person instruction in the middle school and high school as well. In this week's communication, please note important information regarding:

- Plan for the secondary level's transition to 4-day in-person instruction;
- Shaler Area educators continue to be vaccinated;
- A summary of COVID-19 cases in SASD for the week of March 15.

4-Day In-Person Instruction for Grades 7-12

As we shared yesterday, the Shaler Area Middle School and Shaler Area High School will transition to 4-day in-person instruction starting on Monday, April 5.

As a reminder, all families in grades 7-12 are to complete the Commitment Form below to indicate your family's commitment for your student(s) to attend 4-day in-person instruction or the 100% virtual option. Forms are **due today, Friday, March 19**. Please fill out one form per student:

<https://forms.gle/XVynm8Q6VTxKJYXN8>.

We hosted two Town Hall meetings yesterday to help answer questions about the district's transition to 4-day in-person instruction. These meetings were recorded for families that were unable to attend in person:

- High School Parent/Guardian Town Hall Meeting: <https://youtu.be/-faDAKNshqo>
- Middle School Parent/Guardian Town Hall Meeting: <https://youtu.be/q9ZEai6V39g>

Shaler Area Educators Continue to be Vaccinated

Shaler Area staff continue to receive the COVID-19 vaccination as part of the statewide effort to prioritize educators. At the beginning of March, Governor Wolf announced that educators within Pennsylvania school districts are eligible to receive the single-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccination and have been prioritized to receive this over the course of this month. By the end of March, every Shaler Area staff member, cafeteria worker, and bus driver will have had the opportunity to be vaccinated. This opportunity will further our efforts to create a healthy and safe learning environment for our staff and students as we transition to 4-day in-person instruction throughout the district.

COVID-19 Summary

Below is a summary of the additional positive COVID-19 cases in our district since our communication last Friday:

- One student at Shaler Area Elementary School tested positive on March 12.
- One employee at Shaler Area Middle School tested positive on March 13.
- One employee at Shaler Area Elementary School tested positive on March 13.
- One student at Shaler Area Elementary School tested positive on March 14.*
- One employee at Burchfield Primary School tested positive on March 16.
- One student at Shaler Area Elementary School tested positive on March 17.*
- One student at Shaler Area Elementary School tested positive on March 17.
- One student at Reserve Primary School tested positive on March 17.
- One employee at Burchfield Primary School tested positive on March 17.
- One student at Burchfield Primary School tested positive on March 17.

*Indicates the positive case was not in school during their infectious period, therefore, the case will not appear on the dashboard nor be included in the 14-day rolling totals.

The district, in partnership with the Allegheny County Health Department, has identified and notified any individuals who have been identified as a close contact. When a positive COVID-19 case occurs in the district, we will continue to send an email to all families and staff members of the affected building and update our district's COVID-19 dashboard: <https://www.sasd.k12.pa.us/COVID-19Dashboard.aspx>.

As we communicated earlier this week, Burchfield Primary School temporarily transitioned to the Virtual Instruction Model for all students and will resume in-person instruction and activities on Monday, March 22. This decision was in accordance with the state Department of Health's recommendations to close individual school buildings that experience a certain number of positive COVID-19 cases based on the size of the school within a rolling 14-day period.

We appreciate everyone's collaboration and cooperation as we continue to make the transition to 4-day in-person instruction across the district and for your flexibility during this school year. Thank you again for being our partners in education.

Sincerely,

Sean C. Aiken, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Bryan E. O'Black, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent