

Shaler Area School District

1800 Mt. Royal Boulevard, Glenshaw, PA 15116 • 412.492.1200 • www.sasd.k12.pa.us

Sean C. Aiken, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools

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



Kathleen R. Graczyk, Ed.D
Director of Student Services

Sherri L. Ludwig, CPA
Director of Business Affairs

March 5, 2021

Dear Shaler Area families,

In this week's communication, please note important information regarding:

- The start of 4-day in-person instruction for K-3;
- Parent Commitment Form deadline and Town Hall meetings recordings for 4-6;
- Revised state restrictions and moderate level of community transmission;
- "Managing Stress During Stressful Times" event recording;
- A summary of COVID-19 cases in SASD for the week of March 1.

4-Day In-Person Instruction Begins for K-3

We are excited to begin our transition to 4-day in-person instruction with our primary schools on Monday, March 8. As a reminder, K-3 students committed to 4-day instruction will attend in person on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Wednesdays will remain virtual for all students. Students committed to Cohort C will participate virtually Monday through Friday.

Parent Commitment Form Deadlines & Town Hall meetings

As a reminder, the Parent Commitment Forms for families grades 4-6 are **due today, March 5**.

The form will indicate your family's commitment for your student to attend 4-day in-person instruction or the 100% virtual option and their transportation needs. This information is important for the district to plan classroom spaces and bus routes. Please fill out one form per student:

<https://forms.gle/SVZEJAKKHZwnrgvM7>.

We hosted a series of Town Hall meetings 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:

- 4-6 Parent/Guardian Town Hall Meeting recording from Tuesday, March 2 – <https://youtu.be/2Ksyf0bke38>
- 4-6 Parent/Guardian Town Hall Meeting recording from Wednesday, March 3 – <https://youtu.be/DGxJIJIK4w>

*The commitment forms and Parent/Guardian Town Hall meeting schedule for families 7-12 will be shared later this month.

Revised State Restrictions and Moderate Community Transmission

Earlier this week, the state announced revised and lifted mitigation restrictions that were effective March 1. These changes include revised maximum occupancy limits for indoor and outdoor events, regardless of venue size, and the elimination of out-of-state travel restrictions.

Additionally, Allegheny County announced that it has transitioned to the “moderate” level of community transmission for the second week in a row. As you may recall, this transmission rate is one of several indicators for schools to consider when determining an alteration of instructional models. We feel both of these announcements are positive pieces of news as we look to increase in-person instruction across the district.

“Managing Stress During Stressful Times”

This past Wednesday, Shaler Area school counselors and social workers and the Human Services Administration Organization presented the virtual community event “Managing Stress During Stressful Times.” This was a very informative program that included helpful information, tips, and resources for students and families that may be dealing with increased stress. A recording of this event is available on the Shaler Area YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/vkc1mJ9QsfU>.

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 Feb. 24.*
- One student at Shaler Area Middle School tested positive on Feb. 25.
- One student at Shaler Area High School reported being a presumed positive on Feb. 25.
- One student at Shaler Area Elementary School tested positive on March 2.*
- One student at Shaler Area Elementary School tested positive on March 3.
- One employee at Burchfield Primary School tested positive on March 4.

*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 always, thank you for your support this school year.

Sincerely,

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

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