



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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March 26, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am happy to report that 100% of our faculty and staff have had the ability to schedule their vaccine appointment, and a high number of staff have already received their first dose. We have a second large clinic for many of our staff occurring this Sunday, March 28, 2021. Like masking and PPE precautions, employee vaccinations are an important part of our ongoing safety plan. However, we are faced with the realization that this second round of vaccinations could induce side effects for many staff members attending this clinic. Hence, we may have a higher number of staff absences on Monday, March 29, 2021, than usual.

Administration in each school building has been preparing for the possibility of being short-staffed for Monday of next week. We have also requested extra building substitutes through our substitute service, making every attempt to provide for the possibility of coverage issues across our schools.

We deliberated and debated over moving to a remote school day for all children on Monday, given the potential impact on staff and side effects with their second vaccine dose. Ultimately, we decided that we are running a full onsite day as scheduled in the best interest of children. We look forward to our final grade levels returning to full in-person learning, completing our K-12 phase-in. A reminder that all students will move to five days a week beginning April 5, 2021.

We are looking forward to having as many district staff fully vaccinated as soon as possible, and this clinic on Sunday is assisting us in this venture. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school office or feel free to reach out to my office.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R Newton
Superintendent of Schools

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