

# LACONIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## School Administrative Unit Thirty

*"Ensuring success with every student, every day, in every way"*

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February 15, 2021

Good Day, Laconia School District Staff and Families.

I hope you all had a fantastic weekend. Though the weather was more mild than last weekend, it now looks and feels more like winter. I hope you all had some time to get outside, reflect, and rejuvenate. As we enter into this week before February Vacation, here are some updates:

**Positive Developments:** COVID-19 cases in the city, region, and beyond have been declining for the past few weeks. Last week, researchers from Center of Disease Control and Prevention concluded that schools using adequate health protocols are safe places for staff and students. Also, last Friday, put out new guidance for in-person learning in schools were released. Vaccinations continue to be administered. These are signs that we are moving in the right direction.

**Next School Board Meeting:** The Laconia School Board meets on Tuesday at 6:30. We will be presenting a plan for additional supports for students who will benefit from interventions. The end of the semester has yielded us data on how our students are doing. We are using this data to determine how to best support our students. Because there was an increase in positive cases after both the Thanksgiving and Christmas vacations, I will recommend that our schools continue in a hybrid schedule when we return from February Vacation. However, we will also be discussing a timeline to phase into full in-person learning by combining our red and white day cohorts so that they will be coming to school every day.

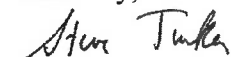
**COVID-19 Cases:** Yesterday, we were notified that one student tested positive COVID-19 at the Laconia Middle School and one more at Elm Street School. After our contact tracing investigation, we determined the close contacts (within 6 feet for a total of 10 cumulative minutes or more, beginning 2 days prior to the first illness onset or collection of positive test, whichever is earlier) in both cases. All of the close contacts have been contacted by their respective school teams. **One team from LMS and the Grade 4 classes at Elm Street School will pivot to remote for the rest of the week through to February Vacation.** Our work was done with the guidance of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

**Weather Forecast:** It looks like there is some inclement weather that could have an impact on school operations this week. If weather is an issue and we close our school buildings for our educational staff and students, we will pivot to remote for all students (red and white cohorts as well as the remote division). If this happens, educational staff will be working from home.

**Health, Safety, and February Vacation:** Although we are seeing a decline in positive COVID-19 cases, our health and safety protocols continue to be important in our ability to offer in-person learning. This includes wearing a mask, physical distancing, coughing into the inside of your elbow, and hand washing. It is also important to continue to do the daily screening. Public health guidelines generally discourage non-essential travel and continue to require a person to quarantine if they leave New England. Though I appreciate that people are tired of these guidelines and restrictions, they are important in our ability to continue in-person learning in our schools.

I hope you have a wonderful week.

Sincerely,



Steve Tucker  
Superintendent  
Laconia School District