

May 14, 2021

Dear T/E Families,

As we begin the final four weeks of the 2020-2021 school year, I would like to take the opportunity to share several important information items with the community. TESD will host a Virtual Instruction Program Information Night for families who may be interested in participating in a remote instruction pilot for the 2021-2022 school year. In addition, I would like to review the status of masking guidance from health authorities and share some details about a vaccine clinic we will be operating next week at Valley Forge Middle School.

Virtual Instruction Program Information Night – May 27

TESD is currently planning for 5 days/week of in-person instruction for the 2021-2022 school year. As we communicated in [our survey last month](#), the District is also exploring a virtual instruction option for interested families. At its May 6 meeting, the School Board Education Committee authorized the administration to move forward with determining the level of family commitment for a pilot Virtual Instruction Program.

We understand that families need further details and opportunities to ask questions before making such an important decision. **TESD will host a Virtual Instruction Program Information Night on May 27 at 7:00 PM.** A link to the virtual meeting will be posted on the T/E School District home page under “In the News” by 6:00 PM the day of the meeting. The informational meeting will also be recorded and later posted on the T/E School District website.

Masking Guidance from Health Authorities

Over the past week, we have seen announcements from different health authorities regarding updated masking guidelines. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently published updated masking recommendations for vaccinated individuals, as did the PA Department of Health, and the PA Department of Education. At this moment, there appears to be a lack of alignment from these organizations, and we remain in active consultation with the Chester County Health Department and state officials to receive clarity on how these guidelines are intended for K-12 schools. **Until such clarification, the District’s current Health & Safety Plan remains in effect, requiring masking of all students and staff in school buildings and at large scale outdoor events regardless of vaccination status.** We understand the interest in moving forward and we will share new information with T/E families as it becomes available.

Student Vaccine Clinic Update

Through a partnership with Springfield Pharmacy, the District will be offering a second voluntary student Pfizer vaccine clinic for all interested TESD families, this time for District children ages 12 and over. This clinic will be held on Friday, May 21 at Valley Forge Middle School between 12:00 PM-6:00 PM. T/E families will receive a sign-up link and additional details about the clinic in a separate communication. **We emphasize the voluntary nature of receiving the vaccine.**

Our goal is to offer the student vaccine clinic as soon as possible at a time that works best for clinic operators. We realize the timing of the clinic could create traffic congestion in the area surrounding

Valley Forge Middle School. Please allow extra time and understand that normal traffic congestion is likely to be greater the afternoon of May 21.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to sort through health guidance and its impact on our schools. I am thrilled that Chester County is experiencing a downward trend in COVID-19 cases and I look forward to even more normalcy in our schools as we plan for the 2021-2022 school year. We have learned a great deal over the past 14 months, and we intend to use that knowledge to provide the best educational program possible next year and beyond. Best wishes for an enjoyable weekend.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Gusick
Superintendent of Schools