



10/27/2020

Dear L-H Families:

I hope this communication finds you well, staying dry and navigating the events that have transpired in recent days in our L-H schedule. I wanted to take a moment to reinforce a couple of different items that have evolved, come to my attention and/or provide confirmation as needed. They are as follows:

Confirmation -

District ReOpening Plan (Remote & In Person Instruction) and Requests to Work Remotely - temporarily:

- Per the District ReOpening Plan (beginning on page 45 - Registration/Instructional Plan Selection) - if a family elects to have their child transition from in-person to remote instruction - they may do so at any time. ***Subsequently - if that family wants their child to return from remote to in-person instruction - they must observe the District timelines for monthly registration.***

*What this means - If you elect to pull your child and have him/her work remotely, that is fine - but they can't just return in a few days. You must now observe the District timeline to register/notify me for the coming month (by the 15th of every month). Even if you wish to have your child work remotely as a temporary precaution because of the events transpiring within the schools - and they are not involved in a direct quarantine matter - you will then need to observe the timetable to return to in person instruction.

*Why - In short, and in the interests of reducing exposure and contact tracing as needed, we need to avoid having students/staff coming in and out (or "popcorning"). We need to have a structured and organized way to account for our in person (and remote students) and create a consistent in-person learning environment in terms of tracing needs on a monthly basis. When individuals are asked to quarantine - there is a specific process, timeline and understanding of re-entry. When individuals are going back and forth between home and school - outside of these protocols - that is where the risk exposure takes place.

District Plan: https://www.summit.k12.nj.us/uploaded/DISTRICT_FILES/Parent_Handbook.pdf

Notification of Close Contact or Need to Quarantine as a Precaution

- To confirm, if an individual is identified as a "close contact" or in need to quarantine out of precaution for a 14 day period - he/she or his/her family are notified directly either through the County health Department or representative of the District (in this case most likely me).
- If you are not contacted about any such need - there is no need to quarantine
- A family member/friend/ etc. of a "close contact" is considered a "contact of a contact" **``Contacts of contacts" are not required to quarantine, may attend school and are allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.** If a close contact develops symptoms of COVID19 or tests positive for COVID-19 , then the "contact of a contact's" status would change.
- If the parent of a "close contact" or "quarantined student" requests to have a sibling also remain at home out of precaution for the school community due to the fact they are living under the same roof - the siblings may work remotely for the interim of the quarantine. Please contact me directly.

Halloween - Confirmation of school sponsored celebration and guidelines

- ❑ Per my communication on 10/6/2020 (below):
http://www.thelionlink.com/2020-21/Flyer/L-H_Halloween_2020.pdf
- ❑ Lincoln-Hubbard will celebrate Halloween the afternoon of this Friday - 10/30/2020
- ❑ Students who wish to celebrate can change into their costumes for participation in Specials and a Class Celebration that afternoon

IMPORTANT - We have fielded some questions and/or getting notice of desire to facilitate Halloween bags, crafts during our school-sponsored party. To confirm:

- ❑ There will be no exchange of any candy/bags in school and during our afternoon scheduled events
- ❑ There will be no distribution of crafts or other party items in school or during our afternoon scheduled events
- ❑ It is very important to keep in mind and understand that the exchange of items, while well intended to promote a celebration for our students, then compromises our re-opening protocols, creates a potential risk for exposure, and creates a contact tracing issue.
- ❑ Simply stated - we've got this. We have prepared activities for a remote celebration.
- ❑ **If you are receiving any contacts that are not in line with the above points - please notify me directly.**

Finally - thank you. Since Monday evening, we have truly shined (once again) as a school community. You may not see how this has happened, but I am witness to it. Let me share with you my observations:

- ❑ As individuals were identified as having positive results - we were notified directly from the source. This was a very responsible decision and greatly appreciated. For those families and L-H community members who are impacted by direct results - we need to care for them and support our L-H community members who may be navigating this unforeseen circumstance.
- ❑ Similarly - when I reached out to notify individuals/families of the need to quarantine - the response was consistently and overwhelmingly in support and understanding of the need. Thank you to those individuals and families for your response and collaboration.
- ❑ Additionally - as all of our L-H families were advised of the need for closure Tuesday - all families rose to the occasion. Not a single contact was made to me questioning the decision or complaining of the circumstance. You made it work and supported your children at home in a moment's notice.
- ❑ Furthermore - I logged into each classroom remotely yesterday. Our students, your children, were ready to roll - engaged - smiling - patient and resilient. This was a great example of how our L-H students are embracing a Growth Mindset!
- ❑ Finally - Our staff: your teachers, our aides, our secretary, our nurse and our custodians were exceptional. Everyone "made it work" and then some. They immersed themselves in their roles - be it teaching, support, health, or maintenance. I can't tell you enough...you have an amazing L-H Team working for you.

In order to keep this going, to stay open - and realize the success that is a hallmark of L-H in any year - we all need to continue to do our part, be consistent, be flexible and understand the "call to action" if we need to change our plan from one moment to the next. We are doing this, L-H! Let's keep it going - I'm so proud of all of you (students, staff and parents)!

With appreciation -

- Matt