

MES Family Update – November 4, 2021

Good afternoon MES Families,

We hope that your first week of November is going well. A number of things for you today:

\*Families should have received a Parent-Teacher Conference sign-up email yesterday from classroom teachers. If you did not, please touch base with your child's teacher in order to set-up a conference on 11/17, 11/18 or 11/19.

\*MES hosted well attended Flu Vaccine and COVID-19 clinics on Election Day. Chatham Health has reached out about holding similar clinics at MES next week. *There will also be another Flu Clinic (adults and kids) and COVID Booster Clinic (not including children ages 5-11) on Tuesday, 11/9 from 3:30-6:00 p.m. in the MES Cafeteria.*

\*Please see the information below concerning COVID-19 clinics specifically for children ages 5-11:

### **COVID-19 Vaccine for Children Ages 5-11**

On Tuesday, November 2nd, the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine was approved for children ages 5-11. Chatham Health has already scheduled several clinics in the region to accommodate families' schedules. The following are COVID-19 clinics for children ages 5-11 only: Portland Middle School, Friday, 11/12, 4:30-6:30 PM; RHAM, Saturday, 11/13, 1:00-3:00 PM, and Jack Jackter Intermediate School in Colchester, Saturday, 11/20, 10:30-1:00. There will likely be additional clinics added. The best place to stay up-to-date on regional clinics being organized through Chatham Health is via their website <https://www.chathamhealth.org/services-2>.

\*Please see the information below that was announced by Governor Lamont earlier today:

### **Screen and Stay**

Governor Ned Lamont today announced the rollout of the Screen and Stay initiative for Connecticut schools that choose to participate. The MES administration is awaiting the guidelines for this protocol from the state so that we can ensure that we meet all the criteria in order to implement this option. We anticipate being able to shift to this protocol after next week or starting as close to November 15<sup>th</sup> as possible.

Under the initiative, students and staff identified as close contacts to a known COVID-19 case but who are not yet fully vaccinated will be able to remain in school if they were wearing masks and don't develop symptoms.

Students and staff are eligible to participate if the close contact with a COVID-19 case occurs under the following circumstances:

- Exclusively during the school day (no extracurricular or social contact).
- If indoors or on a school bus or other school transportation, and both the contact and the COVID-19 case were consistently masked during the exposure even if brief unmasked periods (e.g., snack time, cafeteria) occurred, as long as six feet or more of space was consistently maintained.
- If outdoors, the individuals were masked or unmasked but were supervised by staff (e.g., mask breaks, physical education, recess).
- The close contact remains asymptomatic (any symptoms revert to regular isolation/quarantine).

Governor Lamont said, "The recent approval of the COVID-19 vaccines for children between the ages of 5 and 11 marks an incredibly promising development in these ongoing efforts. While that rollout occurs, the Screen and Stay initiative will help ensure that more students can remain in school and we can provide a safe, in-person learning environment." Connecticut Education Commissioner Charlene M. Russell-Tucker said, "Screen and Stay advances our commitment to in-person schooling, where our students learn best." Connecticut Public Health Commissioner Dr. Manisha Juthani said, "Vaccination remains the easiest way to avoid quarantine from school after being exposed to someone with COVID-19. Our youngest school-age children finally have this opportunity, as well. However, because Connecticut's community case-rate is stable-to-decreasing, this innovative program can protect students and staff in schools while also prioritizing their social and emotional well-being. Connecticut's school mitigation strategies remain very strong with high rates of compliance resulting in infrequent cases of transmission in school buildings."

Please see the information below from the PTO:

- Thank you to our Marlborough community for making our COVID friendly Trunk or Treat such a success. The amount of candy donations was amazing. 450 candy bags and 25 non candy bags were distributed this past Friday night. Square Peg Pizza made over 100 pizzas and lots of ice cream was sold as well. Thank you to everyone for a super night. We are looking forward to the 2022 Trunk or Treat.
- Another round of thanks to all of the families who signed up to make baked goods for our Election Day Bake Sale. We made over \$500 which will be used to help pay for our annual teacher conference dinner.
- As the months go on, the PTO would like to remind everyone that these events cannot take place without family support and participation. We still have board and committee positions available.
- The Book Fair will be here the end of the month and we are excited for the kids to have an in person fair again. We are also looking for volunteers for this as well. Please reach out to Melissa ([salvia601@aol.com](mailto:salvia601@aol.com)) for any questions or comments or to volunteer for the Book Fair the week of November 29.

A few important dates to remember:

- No School - Thursday, November 11 - Veterans Day
- Early Release Days @ 1:00 p.m. - November 17, 18 and 19 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Early Release Day @ 1:00 p.m. - November 24 - Thanksgiving Break
- No School - Thursday, November 24 & Friday, November 25 - Thanksgiving Break

Have a good night, a great Friday and a wonderful weekend.

Dan & Kim