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DCRSD Update 10.29.2020

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>
To: Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>

Thu, Oct 29, 2020 at 4:39 PM

All,

I am writing to share a few important items for your review.

Last evening, I shared with the Dudley-Charlton School Committee our plan for weather related decisions. As you are aware flexibility is a common theme this year and if you believe it is in your student's best interest to stay home you have our support and we will accommodate your decision to the best of our ability. I would simply ask that you utilize the in-person teacher's communication protocols (e.g. google classroom, website, remind, smores, etc.) or email your student's in-person teacher that day to collect any missed work.

Tomorrow morning the weather forecast predicts 1-3 inches of snow in the AM. This year and through a case-by-case manner, if a decision is to close the brick and mortar schools, we have the option to go full remote for the day. The full remote learning day would typically mirror the planned schedule for that day. Our office will communicate the decision to open our facilities or not and more detailed communications will in turn come from your student's school and teachers. Again, in the event that the decision is made to close access to our facilities as a result of weather-related events we will look to use our option to call a full remote learning day which should closely mirror the schedule of the day if students were in school. We will look at a complete closure of schooling in the event that we have a state of emergency or widespread power outages.

This is not intended to be a predictor for tomorrow morning as the first snow of a calendar year tends to have limited accumulation or staying power. The process in determining the best course of action begins in the early morning hours through communications with town public works departments, area superintendents, internal staff and local law enforcement. The goal is to make the decision prior to the departure of busses from their lots at or around 6:00 AM but earlier or closer to 5:30 AM.

This school year, student required immunizations or documentation for exemption must be completed and returned before November 16th, 2020 in order of the Dudley-Charlton RSD to permit your child to attend in-person learning. This was an extension from prior years, but we must have these records up-to-date before November 16, 2020. Attached you will find a letter from the MA DPH Director of School Health Services sharing more details and always feel free to contact your student's school nurse for questions. Families have until December 31, 2020 for the new required flu vaccination, but all other immunizations and updated documentation must be submitted to our schools before Monday, November 16, 2020.

As we experienced our first Dudley-Charlton RSD positive COVID-19 case I want to thank everyone for their concern and feedback. As a result, I want to share our protocol in the event that we have a future positive COVID-19 case in our schools. Once we receive notification of a positive COVID-19 case we contact the town Health Agent or Health Director and provide as much information known to us. The Health Director or Health Agent will contact the positive COVID-19 school community member from or information. The community health nurse and health department officials immediately start contact tracing for those individuals potentially impacted by the identified positive COVID-19 case. A general notice will be sent out to the Dudley-Charlton RSD community so that there is public awareness about a positive COVID-19 case in our schools. After, we will provide an email indicating that all parties have been contacted by health agents for contact tracing purposes. I know that this is all unsettling and anticipating a call from a community health nurse does not help, but this is the system across our state. Lastly, like every other district, we are unable to provide identifying information about the Dudley-Charlton school community member who we learned is positive COVID-19.

Please remember that next Tuesday, November 3, 2020 our National Election Day is a full remote learning day for all students.

As I shared at the Dudley-Charlton School Committee meeting last evening, I acknowledge the frustration shared from parents and the need for something different. We feel the same way as educators as we have our own families who are struggling through the required life balances. No one is escaping our current experience during this pandemic. As a district

we will continue to provide stability and the Dudley-Charlton RSD educators are working extremely hard to ensure each student has the best learning experience available under these circumstances. Dudley-Charlton RSD educators and families should continuously be applauded for their fortitude and "can do" approach through this unprecedented time. We constantly evaluate our program and look for ways to enhance, adjust, evolve and find the opening to get to full in-person learning for all students.

Respectfully,

Steven M. Lamarche

Superintendent of Schols



School Health Reg Guidance Final.pdf

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