



WHITMORE LAKE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Exceptional, Personalized Education

Superintendent Tom DeKeyser

February 25, 2021

Dear WLPS Families,

Monday is going to be a great day to be a Trojan. In partnership with the Washtenaw County Health Department, WLPS is hosting a last-minute pop up COVID-19 vaccination clinic with first doses administered on Monday, March 1 and second doses administered on March 22. Every WLPS employee who wishes to receive the vaccine will have a dose available to them. I expect the participation rate to be quite high. The rest of the doses will be available to qualified Phase 1A employees, area educators, and those 65 years of age or older who are residents of Washtenaw County. We will share information on how to schedule vaccine appointments with our community as it is provided to us.

While this is exciting, it does impact both our in-person and Virtual Academy school day. To allow all staff time away from their student responsibilities to get their vaccine, **Monday, March 1 and Monday, March 22 will be half days of in-person instruction for Kindergarten-12th grade. Preschool will stay on a full day schedule.** Details on how this will impact the Virtual Academy students will be coming from your teachers. I'm sorry for the short notice and any inconvenience it causes your family. We could not pass up the opportunity to get all of our staff protected.

I also want to put on your radar that the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine, which is used in Washtenaw County, can have side effects, varying from person to person. If we have a high number of staff who experience negative side effects after receiving their second dose on March 22, we may have to cancel school on March 23. Unfortunately this will likely be a morning-of decision, but I wanted to let you know it is a possibility so you can plan ahead. It would be similar to a no school snow day.

Wrapping up our sixth month of five-day-a-week in-person instruction, we certainly have a lot to celebrate. Knowing we are on the path to having a vaccinated staff can be added to the list of reasons why, even in a pandemic, it is a great day to be a Trojan.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Tom DeKeyser
Superintendent
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