Sturgis Charter Public School
An International Baccalaureate World School

January 7, 2021

Dear Sturgis Families,

We hope you had a safe and joyous holiday season, and we wanted to remind you of a few things.

Please continue to use the absence reporting form if your child will be absent, tardy, or dismissed, regardless of our school's mode of learning (fully remote or hybrid). If your child, or someone in their household, is having symptoms of COVID-19, or any other symptoms of illness, or has been designated a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case, please notify the school by reporting this on the absence reporting form. If your student is well enough to attend class, please select the "student will attend remotely…" option. Here is the link to the attendance form:

West: https://forms.gle/7RhDWr6NPKt5VQud6

East: https://forms.gle/6Csz6X3mbGvhJn839

Vaccine update:
As you may be aware, Massachusetts has made it a requirement for all K-12th grade students to get a flu (or influenza) vaccine for the 2020-2021 flu season. This mandate applies to all students, even those that are fully remote. The deadline to submit proof that your child has had the flu vaccine has been extended to February 28, 2021. If the vaccine goes against your families sincere religious beliefs, or there is a medical reason why your child can not receive the vaccine, please submit documentation of this to the school nurse.

Massachusetts has also mandated a meningococcal conjugate vaccine for students in grade 7 and 11 beginning this school year. The brand names of this vaccine are *Menveo or Menactra* and need to be given on or after a child's 16th birthday. If your 11th grade child has had a physical exam this year, they may have already received the vaccine. Within the next few weeks you will be receiving a notice from the school nurse if the nurse has not received your child's proof of this immunization. Please reach out to the school nurse with questions about this.

Lastly, some of you may have traveled over the holiday break to spend time with loved ones. With that thought in mind, we would like to remind you about the strict rules the state has set forth regarding travel for Massachusetts residents, as well as the rules we have in place at Sturgis.

1. If you traveled out of the state of Massachusetts for greater than 72 hours, you must:
    ○ fill out the "Massachusetts Travel Form", **AND** receive a negative Covid test that was taken no longer than 72 hours prior to your return to MA, **OR** quarantine for 14 days.
2. When traveling out of state for 72 hours or less, you must:
    ○ fill out the "Massachusetts Travel Form", **AND** receive a negative Covid test AFTER your return to MA, **OR** quarantine for 14 days.

The most common tests offered are the PCR and antigen ("rapid") test. The PCR is considered the gold standard of diagnostic tests for Covid-19. An antigen test is not a diagnostic test and therefore the results of the antigen test MUST be confirmed by a PCR test.

Your student will not be permitted to return to in person school, school activities, or sports with a "rapid" or antigen test. PCR test results must be submitted to the school nurse prior to your student returning to in person schooling, school activities, or sports. Please do not send your student back to in-person school or sports without confirmation from the nurse that the required testing has been received. The guidelines can be found here: MA Travel Guidelines.

During remote learning, the best way to communicate with the school nurses will be via email. Keep in mind it may take longer for the nurses to respond to voicemail and fax during periods of remote learning.

Kind regards,

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