



Colleagues,

Some things to share...

We are continuing to gather data from the "Remote Learning" days. [CLICK HERE](#) to see a snapshot of that data.

**VACCINE:** It has been stated that educators will receive the vaccine somewhere between late February and March. OEA has been in dialogue with those who are at the table to get educators at the top of the list for the vaccine. You are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to get the vaccine. If you fall in one of the categories identified by the CDC or DCH, get the vaccine if you desire to do so. Don't wait for the doses to arrive for district use.

OEA has received responses to the questions that were give to the OPS BoE and District Staff. We submitted a total of 43 questions on Vaccine, Social Distancing, Safety Concerns and Student Concerns.

Below are the responses to those questions from the District.

#### Vaccine-

- The district supports the COVID vaccination and encourages all staff to become vaccinated if medically appropriate for them. The district is not requiring the vaccination at this time.
- The District has extended the 10 days of Public Health Leave granted per employee under FFCRA though March. If a staff member has Public Health Leave remaining, they would be able to use this for side effects of taking the vaccine. If a staff member has exhausted their Public Health Leave, they would need to use sick days. Side effects causing an employee to take leave should be reported to [covidreporting@ops.org](mailto:covidreporting@ops.org)

#### Social Distancing-

- Each school is working on plans to provide appropriate social distancing when possible. Daily routines may look different following the transition and 6 feet of distance may not always be possible. Our layers of health and safety precautions which include facial coverings and enhanced sanitization protocols protect staff and students. Additionally, our metro area districts have seen successful in-person learning with a five day a week model. Individual classroom with concerns about number of

students and space should work directly with their school principal to problem solve.

### Safety Concerns (Air Circulation, Items quarantined for 72 hours, Music and Singing Class)-

- Every building has appropriate air circulation and HVAC and air filtration systems are top propriety within our work order system if any go down. The scope of work in the 2014 and 2018 Bonds focused on Fire, Live and Safety, which included HVAC and ventilation upgrades at most of our schools. Our automation systems monitor the CO2 levels in each of our schools. When CO2 level reaches a preset point, air dampers are opened to bring in more fresh air. If staff at a particular school are concerned, they should work with their school principal.
- Items that can be sprayed with the liquid disinfectant provided do not have to be quarantined after exposure. We are using and providing products that are effective against the Corona Virus and have one (1) to seven (7) minute kill time for viruses when used as instructed. Some items though cannot use the liquid disinfectant (i.e. library books, some are supplies, etc.) and in these cases the items will need to be quarantined for a preset amount of time as communicated by the TLC in that area.
- The protocols for singing do not change with 100%. Our guidelines for music are the same, or event tighter, than those being used in surrounding districts with 100% attendance. The protocols have been effective in our neighboring schools. Masking has worked well while singing, much as it has for all other purposes. Some high schools have purchased specialized masks for singing.

### Student Concerns (Question on constant changes, rush, facing same direction and data bringing students back.)-

- It is time for us to welcome students back to in person learning 5 days a week. Or students have experienced significant disruption to their learning for almost a full year and our student data shows that this is having a major impact on learning. We need to begin academic acceleration work to prevent out students from falling further behind. Our time in the Family 3/2 Model and the experiences of our neighboring district who have already returned to full in person learning show that having students in school 5 days a week in person can be done safely
- The recommendation is that students face the same direction in class and in the cafeteria to decrease the spread of aerosols towards on another. However, we recognize that some classroom and lunchroom setups may need to be different so please work with your school principal on questions about classroom set up and safety protocols.

### Elections-

- OEA General Election will take place on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00am and will close on March 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00pm. **A voting link will be coming from UNANIMOUS to your HOME/PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS.** This is critical to receive your ballot. **OEA has tired numerous of times to reach out to our members to make sure it is current.**

- NSEA Election will take place on February 19<sup>th</sup> to March 14<sup>th</sup> and a link will be sent to your personal email.

### **Student Loan Forgiveness Workshop-**

- A workshop is being offered by NEA Member Benefits, Susan Estes. This event will take place on Wednesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. Contact the office if you would like to sign up. The number is 402-346-0400.

### **OEA Foundation Scholarships-**

- If you have a soon to be graduate, take advantage of the scholarship opportunity provided by the OEA Foundation. Your dedication and involvement to the OEA pays off during this time. [CLICK HERE](#) to get additional info.

### **Letters of Intent-**

- Reminder that letters of intent must be submitted by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Anything that is asked before that date should have "Non-binding" on it. [CLICK HERE](#) for additional info.

### **NGEN Event-**

- Early Career Educators, this event is for you! You asked and we listened. Join fellow early career educators for a night of conversation and laughter while learning a bit on mixology! Call the OEA office if you are interested in attending 402-346-0400. [CLICK HERE](#) for the flyer and additional information.

### **Just ONE Campaign-**

- You have one more month to ask fellow colleagues to join the OEA at a prorated cost. The incentive for February, is a sweet treat and \$20 Amazon gift card. There is a drawing for a reimbursement of dues. The drawing will take place at the end of the month. [CLICK HERE](#) for the link to sign up a fellow teacher or even ask those who have been reluctant to join. We are stronger together!

This was a long message, but I wanted to keep you informed.

Be well,

Robert  
OEA President

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