

The vision of the Lake Forest School District is to be the model of excellence in education.

July 29, 2021

## Dear School Community,

As we move forward into the 2021-2022 school year, we are excited to be together in schools across the state. We know the past year has been incredibly challenging and we are grateful for your continued collaboration as we enter the next phase of the pandemic – one that hopefully leads us back to safe, healthy, and supportive school environments for all students.

To ensure that we return in a way that is both safe and allows for us to all learn together, we hope that you, if you have not done so already, consider being vaccinated and ensuring that your student, if eligible, is also vaccinated before the beginning of the school year. Information on the <u>vaccine for children 12-17 years old</u> can be found on the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) website and locations with available vaccine can be found <u>here</u>. All available COVID-19 vaccines, including the Pfizer vaccine approved specifically for individuals 12-17, provide a high level of protection and are extremely safe in all populations.

If you or your student has not yet received a vaccine, we invite you to join us at our back-to-school-focused vaccination clinic on August 19th and September 9<sup>th</sup> from 4-8 PM at any of the following locations; please register by clicking the link below:

- Howard High School of Technology (401 E 12th St., Wilmington, DE 19801)
- William Penn High School (713 E Basin Road, New Castle, DE 19720)
- Lake Forest Central Elementary School (5424 Killens Pond Road, Felton, DE 19943)
- Seaford Middle School (500 E Stein Highway, Seaford, DE 19973)

Getting more of our middle and high school population partially or fully vaccinated prior to re-starting the 2021-2022 school year will cut back on the chance that COVID-19 will spread in our schools and once again disrupt learning. Children are at risk for illness *and* hospitalization from COVID-19; and the Delta variant, which is the predominant strain now in Delaware, spreads more easily among unvaccinated persons.

Individuals are "fully vaccinated" two weeks after their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or after one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. As such, we encourage you to come on August 19<sup>th</sup> or to access the vaccine sooner at a nearby <u>pharmacy</u>, <u>DPH clinic</u>, <u>primary care provider office</u>, <u>or community site</u>, to allow enough time for second doses to be delivered and increase the percentage of fully vaccinated eligible individuals in our schools.



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We are also considering how we will implement any necessary mitigation strategies including continued mask use, and social distancing, especially with unvaccinated individuals, as well as routine testing, and quarantine for those who have been exposed. However, as more individuals are vaccinated, we will be able to relax these mitigation strategies across all community settings, including schools.

Sincerely,

Steven Lucas

Steven V. Lucas, Ed.D. Superintendent

Superintendent

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