



**SHEPHERD PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**  
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October 12, 2021

Dear Shepherd School Community,

Good afternoon. As we move out of a busy week of Homecoming for the school district we find ourselves with a large number of COVID-19 positive cases with students and staff.

Due to a recent rise in cases at both the Shepherd Middle and Shepherd High Schools, we have gone well over our positivity rate of ten (10) positive cases. Therefore, for Wednesday, October 13th, 2021 masks will need to be worn by all who enter the buildings. As has been approved by the Board's policy, masks will be worn until the positivity rate reaches at or below the metric of five (5) positive cases in a day.

As well, the positivity rate at Shepherd Elementary has reached the threshold for masking with at least eight (8) cases. Therefore, for Wednesday, October 13th, 2021 masks will need to be worn by all who enter the building. As has been approved by the Board's policy masks will be worn until the positivity rate reaches at or below the metric of four (4) positive cases in a day.

As a means of mitigating further spread and in an effort to allow students and staff a bit more time to heal and separate from crowded areas, there will be no school for all Shepherd Public School students for Thursday, October 14, 2021. As you may recall, this was going to be a half-day of school for students. This half-day will now become a teacher Professional Development day.

Each building with the exception of Odyssey is going to move to a format of "virtual Parent Teacher Conferences" for Thursday and Friday. Parents will have the chance to meet virtually with teachers versus in-person.

None of us is thrilled to make continual adjustments to our lives regarding COVID-19. However, it must be the district's continued practice to control and mitigate the virus spread as best deemed possible.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Terry J. Starr, Superintendent

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