

Erie Day School COVID-19 Updates

TRAVEL GUIDANCE: In preparation of the holiday breaks in November and December, I would like to remind everyone of our *Travel Disclosure* and our school policy related to family travel. In correlation with the PA Dept. of Ed., CDC, and own state guidelines (frequently updated) at <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>, you are encouraged to follow the Pennsylvania updates related to travel recommendations.

As of 10/9, in PA, a 14-day quarantine follows travelers that visit the states listed below:

- Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas
- Florida
- Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa
- Kansas, Kentucky
- Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana
- Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- South Carolina, South Dakota
- Tennessee, Texas
- Utah, Wisconsin and Wyoming

In accordance with our own health and safety protocols in the *Erie Day School Re-Opening Plan* (August, 2020, Travel Guidance, p. 10):

“All EDS families are strongly encouraged to avoid travel to high-risk areas in the 14 days prior to the start of School. **If your family travels to an area where there are high amounts of COVID-19 cases, including the states listed in the Travel section of the Pennsylvania COVID-19 website or the Travel Guidance on the Johns Hopkins website, please notify the School Nurse, submit a Travel Disclosure and self-quarantine at home for 14 days, utilizing Option 2 for Remote Instruction of the 2020-2021 Academic Options.**”

If you have any questions, please call/email me.

FACTS OF THE MATTER: Let me be clear in this next section. We were lucky this past week. We were fortunate that the child afflicted with COVID-19 is recovering and did not attend school after the parent began to be symptomatic. We were the beneficiaries of a family that acted proactively, with the *Common Good* in mind. We may not be as lucky if we have a traveler return or a child attend school having taken risks that may have otherwise been avoided.

*Case in point: Consider the following sequence of events and how our one case of COVID-19 could have affected the entire school.

- Friday: The parent noticed an absence of smell and taste. No other symptoms presented.
- Saturday: The parent was tested.

- Monday: The parents chose not to send the Early Childhood, Lower and Middle School children to school on Monday and Tuesday because the parent was symptomatic over the weekend.
- Tuesday: The positive test result returned after 3 days (can take up to 4 days). (Keep in mind the rapid testing has its issues.) No one in the family beyond the parent felt symptoms. The entire family was tested.
- Wednesday: One of the children, a Middle School student, began mild cold-like symptoms; no fever or coughing.
- Thursday: The child contracted a slight fever below 100.5 degrees during the day. That night, the family notified the school of the positive result for one child; the other parent and one of the siblings in Early Childhood tested negative.
- Friday: The school community was notified. The Lower School sibling's test results were confirmed negative.

It is important to consider that the Middle School child will follow remote learning options through October 16th. The siblings of the child that tested positive will follow remote learning options through November 2nd per Erie County Health Dept. and CDC guidelines.

In sum, if anyone in your home experiences symptoms related to COVID-19, please revisit this family's circumstances and their decisions. Early Childhood, Lower and Middle School students, faculty and staff could have easily been subject to exposure and worse yet, illness. We revisit the phrases "it takes a village" and "we are all in this together" time and again. Let us continue to put actions behind our words on behalf of our Erie Day School community.

*This timeline and information were shared with family consent.