



Brighton Area Schools

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Dr. Matthew S. Outlaw
Superintendent of Schools
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11-9-21

Dear Hornung Families and Staff,

I regret to inform you that, as a result of the increase in COVID-19 cases among students at Hornung Elementary School over the past 10 days, **all Hornung classes will shift to virtual learning for the next 14 days beginning on Wednesday, November 10th**. This will take us to Thanksgiving break so students would return to in-person learning when all district students are back in class on November 30th. The following are the primary reasons for this shift:

- 1) **An unexplained rise in COVID-19 cases among students at Hornung Elementary since 10/30/2021.** The following is the direct communication from the health department:

Thank you for working with LCHD to identify multiple COVID-19 cases at Hornung Elementary School. Given the rapid rise in the number of COVID-19 cases as well as the number of different grades/classes involved, **LCHD recommends a temporary pause in in-person instruction for the entire Hornung Elementary School to prevent additional exposures and cases.** We recommend the pause to last a minimum of 14 days.

We will be sending out additional guidance regarding recommended cadence of COVID-19 testing for students during this pause.

Thank you for working with us to ensure the safety of all students, staff, teachers, family members and the broader Livingston County community.

Regards,

Juan Luis Marquez, MD, MPH
Medical Director | Livingston County Health Department

- 2) **Disruption to the learning environment as a result of the exclusion of close contacts.** Cases have not been isolated to an individual classroom or grade, so we are seeing student exclusions in numerous classrooms across the school. In addition to the challenges created for parents and staff, these exclusions have impacted the consistency and quality of the education being delivered to our students.

Important Information for Hornung Families:

- 1) **Virtual Learning** – Detailed information will be shared by staff regarding your child's classroom before Thursday. The following are a few details that will apply to all classrooms:
 - a. ***November 10th will be an asynchronous learning day (no direct teacher contact).*** Teachers will offer independent work for students while at home tomorrow. This will be a day for staff to make the transition to virtual learning beginning on Thursday the 11th.
 - b. ***Synchronous instruction following the regular school schedule*** - The rules from the State are different this year, so all instruction will be synchronous learning

(real-time instruction from staff). Additionally, the hours of instruction will mirror those of in-person learning as required by the State. With that said, the organization of the day and the delivery model will likely be adjusted using many of the strategies employed during the 2020-21 school year.

- 2) **Technology** – “For families that need to borrow a device for their students' virtual learning, please fill out the [Hornung Virtual Learning Technology Survey](#) so that we can meet your family's needs. By filling out this survey, you are indicating that your family does not have access to a device for virtual learning. Please fill out a form for each Hornung student in need of a device.”
- 3) **Attendance** – The virtual classes take the place of in-person learning, so attendance requirements remain the same. Students are expected to be in class during the required class times.
- 4) **Lunch/Breakfast** – More information will be shared about lunch and breakfast pick-up for those accessing the school nutrition program.

In conclusion, we apologize for this disruption but are hopeful that this short pause will help to address the challenges of the current situation. As mentioned before, you will receive more detailed information from the Hornung staff. Thank you for your understanding and partnership.

Sincerely,

Matthew S. Outlaw

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Superintendent for the Brighton Area Schools