

January 2, 2022

Dear WISD community,

First, we would like to wish all of you a happy new year! The last two years were incredibly challenging, and we are immensely grateful for your cooperation and understanding as we all navigate the pandemic.

COVID-19 continues to impact through the rising cases following the holidays. WISD continues to monitor the effects of the Omicron variant in our county, as well as in the region and across the state (see the [CDC COVID Tracker](#) and the [Washtenaw County Health Department dashboard](#) for more information).

WISD's student programs will return for in-person classes as scheduled on Monday, January 3, 2022. (*Exceptions:* WISD's Eberwhite Elementary local-based classroom will begin virtual instruction on Tuesday, January 4 due to the AAPS calendar modification and High Point students will return to in-person instruction in their new building as scheduled on Wednesday, January 5, 2022.) **WISD's early childhood home visiting programs, Early On and Early Head Start, will remain virtual through January 14, 2022, as previously communicated.**

It is critically important that students and staff stay home if they are sick. Use the [health screener](#) to determine if your symptoms are such that you should stay home. If you have a close contact exposure, are experiencing symptoms, or if you test positive for COVID-19, please reach out to your program supervisor and WISD's Health Resource Advocate, Gio Parochetti, at gparochetti@washtenawisd.org.

If you or your child is feeling symptomatic, we strongly encourage getting a [rapid antigen or PCR test](#). The state of Michigan is also implementing a "MI Backpack Program" to supply school districts with at-home rapid tests for students and staff. WISD has signed up for this program and as soon as tests are available, we will communicate more information with you.

WISD will continue to maintain all of our health and safety protocols including universal masking, physical distancing, health screening, healthy hygiene practices, quarantining, and vaccination or testing for staff.

We know that for the children, students and families of WISD's programs, it is important we provide in-person instruction and services to the greatest and safest extent possible. This depends on all of us doing everything we can to layer our health and safety strategies. We continue to hear from our partners at the Washtenaw County Health Department that following these strategies are the best ways to continue keeping everyone as safe as possible. Thank you for your part in supporting these efforts.

Lastly, even with all our protocols and careful planning, with such high levels of community spread, we may see a higher-than-average impact on attendance of staff and students. This may make it necessary to shift to remote instruction or work at some point. However, if we find



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ourselves in that situation, we will work to keep any disruption to in-person instruction to a minimum.

We hope you were able to enjoy the holiday season safely. We look forward to seeing students, children, families, and staff again soon. As always, we thank you for your continued partnership and support. I wish each of you a happy and healthy 2022!

Sincerely,

Naomi Norman
Superintendent