



NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT

50 EAST DIVISION STREET • NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428 • TELEPHONE (814) 725-8671

DATE: DECEMBER 2017

MEMO TO: ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS of NORTH EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS

FROM: FRANK M. McCLARD, SUPERINTENDENT

As the winter season approaches, I want you to assure you that the school district takes the decision making process to cancel or delay the start of school very seriously. We attempt to make this decision as soon as we possibly can. As always, the safety of our students and staff is the most important consideration when making this decision. As weather conditions throughout the district vary depending on location, if you feel at any time that the weather conditions where you live are not safe for your child to attend school, please keep them at home. Please use your best judgment in making this decision.

In most instances we will begin with a "two-hour delay" and monitor the conditions very closely from that point. There are times when the decision can be made the night before and when it is possible this will occur. The district's OneCall Now[®] phone notification system will be activated as soon as a decision is made. We will make every attempt to make this call before 10:00 PM. Local radio and television stations will also be notified, and messages will be posted on the district's website and FaceBook page.

As in the past, very rarely (if at all) will a decision be made to send students home early from school. Our buildings are safe and supervised places. Sending students to empty homes is not something that we like to do without significant advanced notice.

I also wanted to update you on recent concerns that have been expressed regarding viruses and head lice. The district follows the school board policy on communicable diseases when certain viruses or illnesses are discovered. This would include, but not be limited to, the hand and mouth virus, head lice and scabies. Parents of students in a specific classroom where this is an issue may be notified after two or more students in a classroom have been found to be impacted. The Family Educational Right to Privacy Act prevents the district from doing more than this as far as notification of the public is concerned.

Procedures for what to do in the event that your student has contracted head lice are outlined in the North East School Board policy 5162.1 on Communicable Diseases and can be found by accessing our website under policies at www.nesd1.org. Please be assured that the district takes whatever measures are needed to prevent the spread of illnesses. Once there has been confirmation of head lice or of a virus such as the hand and mouth virus, areas are thoroughly disinfected -- above and beyond what already occurs. I can assure you, as I have witnessed this personally, that our district and staff take this responsibility very seriously.

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With regard to the health and well-being of our students, I also wanted to take this opportunity to remind you of our school district policy with the regard to the use of the Epi-pen. As you might remember, legislation was passed several years ago that permits trained school district personnel to use an Epinephrine auto-injector (Epi-Pen) for students in the event of an emergency situation where a student is in crisis due to an allergic reaction. School districts can keep a small supply of Epi-Pens that would be used should this need arise and we do have a small supply available to us. Many of our staff members have been properly trained in the event that their use becomes necessary.

Parents who wish to have their child exempted from the provisions of this legislation can send a written note to the school district stating that as a parent/guardian, you do not want the school district to use an Epi-Pen on your child no matter what the circumstances. The district would keep this letter on file for the school year. If you would like to make such a request, please send this letter to my office and we will make certain that it is delivered to the right personnel within the building where your child attends school.

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this letter, please feel free to contact our office at 725-8671, ext. 3907.

Have a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank M. McClard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frank" being the most prominent.

Frank M. McClard, Ed.D.
Superintendent