

MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Families

From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: March 11, 2021

Subject: Virtual Teaching and Learning Week of April 12-16

We appreciate your partnership as we continue our core focus on teaching and learning in Atlanta Public Schools (APS). The overall success of implementing our comprehensive COVID-19 mitigation strategy has enabled us to offer families the options of virtual or in-person learning in our schools. I appreciate the student engagement in our weekly COVID-19 surveillance testing and encourage everyone to participate and continue to get tested each week.

As we continue our focus on protecting student and staff health and safety and in light of an anticipated high volume of student and staff travel during Spring Break, April 5-9, we are taking the precautionary step of transitioning to virtual instruction for the following week, April 12-16, to help maintain low rates of COVID-19 spread in our schools and buildings.

All students will participate in classes virtually from April 12-16. Please take the necessary steps to prepare for virtual instruction that week.

To help inform this proactive decision, we surveyed our staff about whether they would be traveling during Spring Break, and 4,900 of them participated in the survey. Over 59% of our teachers and over 53% of all staff indicated that during Spring Break they will be traveling utilizing public transit and/or traveling overnight and in association with crowds outside their household. In addition, the week of April 12th coincides with the dates of the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine for staff on April 14, 16, and 17 as part of our mass vaccination event at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Remote teaching and learning that week will provide more flexibility for our staff to receive the second dose of the vaccine.

For those families who will be traveling during Spring Break, I ask that you follow the travel guidelines issued by the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#):

- Get tested with a viral test 3-5 days after travel AND stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
- Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
- If your test is positive, isolate yourself to protect others from getting infected.
- If you don't get tested, you are encouraged to stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
- Avoid being around people who are at increased risk for severe illness for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.

Thank you for your continued support, patience, and understanding. Most of all, please stay healthy and be well.

Yours in service,

Dr. Lisa Herring