

## MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Staff

From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: March 12, 2021

Subject: Post-Spring Break Plans, COVID-19 Vaccinations, and Other Updates

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the staff, teachers, parents, students, and community members from the Carver, Mays, and Douglass clusters who have already participated in our Cluster Conversations.

With this series, we engage in an honest, in-depth discussion about the district's challenges and triumphs. This collaboration lays the foundation for reimagining the future of Atlanta Public Schools and continues next week – from 5:30 to 7 p.m. each Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

I encourage everyone to join the discussions and lend their voices and talents to our mission to graduate EVERY student ready for college, career, and life. Learn more and register to attend these virtual sessions at [www.atlantapublicschools.us/2021ClusterConversations](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/2021ClusterConversations), which includes archived conversations should you miss any part of the series.

### **Post-Spring Break Plans**

As I shared in my message to you yesterday, due to an expected high volume of staff travel during Spring Break, we are taking the precautionary step of transitioning to virtual instruction for the week of April 12-16. This move will help maintain low rates of COVID-19 spread in our schools and buildings. All students will participate in classes virtually and most staff will work remotely that week. (Operations staff should consult with their supervisor for specific work schedule instructions.) That week also includes 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.

As a reminder, Atlanta Public Schools follows Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on travel and quarantining for all students and staff members. As a district, we ask those who have traveled to get tested and stay home, adhering to the following:

- 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.

## **COVID-19 Vaccinations Update**

With COVID-19 vaccinations, we move even closer to better health, safety, and well-being for everyone in our community. Educators and school staff are now eligible for vaccinations in the state of Georgia.

Through our partnership with the Fulton County Board of Health, we have secured up to 8,000 allocations of the Pfizer vaccine and are scheduled for the very first days they are available in Fulton County. That means we can guarantee appointments for the vaccine for all of our employees through the mass vaccination events at Mercedes Benz Stadium.

As you know, through our partnership with the Fulton County Board of Health and our plan to host mass vaccination events, the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine will be administered to staff on Wednesday, March 24, Friday, March 26, and Saturday, March 27, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Second doses will be administered on Wednesday, April 14, Friday, April 16, and Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please note that school-based staff should schedule an appointment on Wednesday or Saturday. District office/operations staff should schedule on Friday or Saturday. Remember, you must have an appointment to receive a vaccination. We expect to send vaccination appointment sign-ups as early as March 16. If you haven't already done so, please be sure to check your email and complete a brief staff survey with the subject "OPT IN or OUT of COVID vaccination planning." The deadline to complete the survey is Friday, March 12. An opt-in does not constitute consent for treatment. Those who opt in will be contacted when appointments are available and can decide at that time if they want to take the vaccine. If you've already completed the survey and would like to change your response, please email [covidvaccine@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:covidvaccine@atlanta.k12.ga.us).

Again, our employees will be among the first in Fulton County to get this round of vaccinations. We are so grateful to the Fulton County Board of Health for their partnership and want to say thank you for all that they do to help keep our community healthy.

Thanks as always for your service and dedication! Please stay healthy and be well.

Yours in Service,

Lisa Herring