

MEMORANDUM

To: All APS Staff

From: Dr. Lisa Herring, Superintendent

Date: March 5, 2021

Subject: COVID-19 Vaccinations and Important Survey Deadlines

Each week as I prepare my weekly message to you, I cannot help but feel grateful for all of the hard-working and dedicated team members in Atlanta Public Schools. As often as I can, I try to extend my appreciation and admiration to our colleagues.

This week is National School Social Work Week, which provides the perfect time for all of us to recognize and thank these critical teammates of ours. The theme – “Social Workers Are Essential” – could not be more appropriate, and it helps embody the contributions of our school social workers during these times of pandemic, social unrest, and economic uncertainty.

Think about it: Our 41 full-time school social workers have made a paradigmatic shift to help students and families receive the services they need to thrive in school and life. Much of that work focuses on removing barriers to student learning, linking and coordinating community services for families in need, and advocating for social change on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed students and families.

So, please take a moment to thank them for their service this week!

COVID-19 Vaccination Updates

We are working closing with the Fulton County Board of Health to support vaccination events for all APS teachers and staff now that Governor Kemp has announced that Georgia educators are among the priority groups who can get vaccinated in the coming weeks ... and even days!

Through our partnership, an allocation of more than 8,000 vaccines has been requested to ensure that all staff who expressed interest through the APS survey will have access to the vaccine. Plans are underway for an APS Vaccination Event to be held in mid-to-late March.

In the meantime, we need volunteers! If you wish to volunteer to help at the vaccination events that are being planned, please check www.signupgenius.com/go/GetVaccinatedAPS for updates. For more information on other vaccination options available, the state has launched a pre-registration site for all Georgians at myvaccinegeorgia.com.

In the meantime, we continue to administer weekly COVID-19 surveillance tests as part of our mitigation strategy. I encourage your participation!

Deadlines: Employee Check-in Survey and Student Intent to Return Survey

Two critical deadlines are upon us: the Employee Check-in Survey and Student Intent to Return Survey.

Last month, the district – with the assistance of Gallup – launched a brief, 11-question survey designed to gather valuable feedback and comments from you about your engagement at work and your personal well-being. Your responses will enable us to create a more supportive work environment for everyone. The submission deadline is 5 p.m. today! If you haven't completed the survey, please do so now. Responses will be completely confidential, as Gallup only sends APS summary reports.

Also, the deadline for families to update their Intent-to-Return declaration for the fourth quarter is Monday, March 8. If a parent does not complete the form in time, the student will remain in his or her current instructional learning model, whether it be site-based virtual learning, face-to-face instruction, or Atlanta Virtual Academy. Please encourage your families to complete the form so we can plan accordingly for the fourth quarter.

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

Yours in Service,

Lisa Herring