

AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

12/18/2020

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Education Minnesota announcement on reopening buildings:

Wednesday, Gov. Tim Walz announced that the state is updating the Safe Learning Plan so that starting on Jan. 18, schools can resume in-person instruction for preschool- and elementary-aged children – but only if schools adopt strict requirements for safety equipment and policies.

These strategies include providing and requiring staff to wear a face shield and mask, and offering routine testing, among other measures.

Also, we know schools can't reopen if they have too many staff members who are sick or in quarantine, which common sense says is related to the amount of community spread of the virus.

Middle and high schools will still be subject to the state's original school reopening rules, and many that have moved to online learning will have to stay there until local virus case numbers drop significantly.

We also need to keep in mind that the pain of the pandemic has not been shared equally. Communities of color in Minnesota represent a disproportionate share of the people infected, hospitalized and killed by the disease. Appropriately, the plan presented today gives districts and families some freedom to choose a learning model that works for them.

In short, the topline message about this plan is that it is workable and that there is a lot to like in it. It uses science and starts with the youngest learners. It uses phase-ins, a couple grade levels at a time. It puts strict mitigation protocols in place. However, the plan requires everyone doing the right things, outside and inside the school building.

Please be assured that Education Minnesota will continue to do everything in our power to make sure learning environments are safe for students and staff.

Our Education Minnesota team will analyze the changes in the Safe Learning Plan and will release our guidance early next week.

AHEM Working with District to Assist in Transition

Several AHEM members, committee leaders and officers are participating in District planning groups to aid in planning for the quick turn-around in instructional design. Committee involvement includes membership on these committees:

Communication

Operations

Data Advisory

Weekly Check-in with Administration and Superintendent



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Help is on the Horizon!

Please Complete Your Vaccination Survey Today

Anoka County has asked the District how many Covid-19 vaccinations will be required for staff. Two shots are necessary for you to gain immunity. The goal is to schedule vaccination time slots for staff for two shots, with an anticipated immunity for all staff by March.

The specific timeline seems to be a moving target, so please stay informed and ready to participate in getting immunized when the opportunity arises.



**THE VOICE FOR PROFESSIONAL
EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS**

Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP)

WE HAVE THE POWER!

The PEIP Committee has met, and is in need of additional members. If you are interested in helping to research lower-cost health insurance options, please email laura.bratland@edmn.org.

The committee meetings, so far, have included forming a timeline for research, member education of the PEIP program, and the PEIP bid evaluation. The committee draws on assistance from Education Minnesota staff, and has ample opportunity to learn more about PEIP from the state of Minnesota's PEIP representative. They have also heard presentations from other Districts who have moved to the lower-cost PEIP program.

Recommended Policy Option Range (14-day case rate per 10,000 people) Covid case rates have shown an increase in both counties since the last reporting period.

In-person learning for all students	0 to less than 10
Elementary in-person, Middle/high school hybrid	10 to less than 20
Both hybrid	20 to less than 30
Elementary hybrid, Middle/high school distance	30 to less than 50
Both distance	50 or more

MN Dept. of Health: Case Rates per 10,000, Based on 14-day Case Rate, Updated 12/17/20

11/22 – 12/5: Anoka County, 129.21 Hennepin County, 106.5

jwolfson.shinyapps.io: Data for K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 14-day Case Rate by County
Updated 12/16/2020

Anoka: 111.2 Hennepin County 93.2

SAVE THE DATE

Education Minnesota Collective Bargaining and Organizing Conference

Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021

**This year's kickoff to bargaining will be virtual with
an exciting keynote for all conference participants
followed by smaller, instructor-led sessions.**

**Negotiators, organizers, Unity Team members and other local
leaders will come together online and continue to learn critical
organizing skills, build powerful local plans to unify members
around bargaining for the common good, demand what our students
and educators need from the legislature and prepare to bargain
for those resources in our locals as part of our Unity 2021 work!**

Questions?

Contact Maureen Fourre at mfourre@edmn.org or
Andrea Cecconi at 651-604-7128 or acecconi@edmn.org.

www.edmnvotes.org

Education Minnesota is an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers,
the National Education Association and AFL-CIO. www.aflcio.org 1409



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Education Minnesota Economic Services Inc. (ESI)

Education Minnesota Economic Services Inc. (ESI) is at the forefront when it comes to providing top quality member benefit programs.

Identity Theft Recovery is a no cost benefit for members. Education Minnesota members may upgrade to a household plan for as little as \$3 per month. Register by calling 877-833-9041 or visit educationminnesota.securusid.com. Because you are a member of Education Minnesota, you are also a member of the National Education Association (NEA) and American Federation of Teachers (AFT). Therefore, members are eligible to use products and services sponsored by NEA Member Benefits and AFT+ Member Benefits as well.

To find out more about your member benefits visit:

<https://educationminnesota.org/home>

www.neamb.com

www.aft.org/benefits

Your individual identification number is required to access ESI benefits. The unique 10-digit number was assigned to you as a member when your application was processed. It is also referred to as a membership number. The individual ID number is located on every membership card. The Individual ID number is the same for Education Minnesota, American Federation of Teachers (AFT) and the National Education Association (NEA). This number is needed to create user accounts to gain access to member only data on the Education Minnesota website as well as AFT and NEA. It is also easily accessible on the Education Minnesota Website.

2021 NEA Convention will be held in the Mile-High City of Denver

The National Education Association Representative Assembly is currently planned to be held in person July 2-6 in Denver. AHEM has budgeted to send some of our members, all expenses paid. If you are interested in attending, please email valerie.holthus@edmn.org.

National Education Association Conference is the primary legislative and policymaking body of the Association and derives its powers from, and is responsible to, the membership. The Representative Assembly adopts the strategic plan and budget, resolutions, the Legislative Program, and other policies of the Association. Delegates vote by secret ballot on proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. Those delegates with full voting rights elect the executive officers, Executive Committee members, and at-large members of the NEA Board of Directors.

The Families First Coronavirus Response Act

Expires on December 31 establishes two separate and temporary paid leave laws, which run from April 1 – Dec. 31: the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and the Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act. These laws provide emergency paid sick leave and some partially paid parental leave protections to eligible employees who need to provide care to their children because of school and child care closures.

Contact Employee Services to access these programs.

“...I’m back, back in the saddle again”

-Gene Autry -Aerosmith -Anoka-Hennepin Elementary Teachers

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

❖ Announcements:

- AHEM Rep Assembly & Executive Board Meeting, Monday, December 21, 4:45
- No Students, Winter Break, December 23, 2020 – January 3, 2021
- School Resumes January 4, 2021
- Filing Opens for AHEM Treasurer, and AHEM funded delegates to State and National Conventions, January 4, 2021
- AHEM Rep Assembly, Monday, January 11, 4:45
- K-2 proposed to return to in-person learning, Tuesday, January, 19, 2021
- Grades 3-5 proposed to return to in-person learning, Monday, February 1

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