

AHEM Friday Blast

Valerie Holthus, President

1/8/2021

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The World According to the Safe Learning Plan: Reopening is an Exercise in Flexibility

On December 15 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. On December 24 further changes were introduced. You can find the updated Safe Learning Plan here:

https://education.mn.gov/mdeprod/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=MD E033418&RevisionSelectionMethod=latestReleased&Rendition=primary

A few of the original plan components:

- Implement a rolling start process for students to be brought back to the building.
- Execute COVID-19 testing program every other week for all school staff, beginning January 4, 2021.
- When educators cannot be six feet from students, add a clear barrier between the adult and student when possible.
- Face coverings must be worn when engaging in indoor physical activity (e.g., during indoor recess, indoor physical education class, or when exercising in a gym).
- [UPDATED 12/24/20]:

It is strongly recommended that districts require staff to wear facemasks and face shields together whenever possible during the school day. Exemptions may include:

-When staff are serving students in settings where seeing a person's lips is necessary, staff are strongly encouraged to wear a clear face mask in addition to the required face shield. If they do not have access to a clear facemask, they can choose to only wear the required face shield.

-When staff is performing duties in which a facemask and a face shield worn together are creating a safety issue, staff may choose to only wear the required facemask.

Therefore, the District will offer face shields if staff request one, and will not discipline a member if they do not wear a shield. Masks will still be required unless the staff person is in a closed room alone.

UPDATED 12/24/20]: For pre-school and primary only: Student meal times should be held in the classroom if six feet of physical distancing between students cannot be accommodated in the cafeteria and cohorts cannot be clearly separated within the cafeteria.

We know this is not possible in our buildings, so communication to MDH and MDE must occur for more realistic, safety procedures to be put in place.

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 to appropriate levels.



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AHEM Election

Will be on February 24 and 25 for the Office of Treasurer and QComp

Filing for the Office of Treasurer is now open, and closes on January 26. The treasurer develops the budget and pays the union's bills and acts as the financial agent for AHEM. The stipend for this position is currently \$6,696.00 per year, and the term is three years. To file, email jennifer.adriaens@edmn.org

The yearly vote for Quality Compensation renewal is required as written in our QComp proposal as agreed upon with the Minnesota Department of Education.



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Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP)

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Health insurance premiums too expensive?



AHEM is actively pursuing an insurance bid from the state of Minnesota's Public Employee Insurance Program (PEIP). Coverage in the public program includes major health care providers, and average premium costs increase from July, 2010 to July, 2020 has been 3%. AHEM has submitted a request for a current bid, and we should receive the bid during third trimester.

Recommended Policy Option Range (14-day case rate per 10,000 people) Covid case rates have shown a significant drop 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 1/7/21

12/13 – 12/26/20: Anoka County, 47.23 Hennepin County, 39.81

jwolfson.shinyapps.io: Data for K-12 Schools: 14-day COVID-19 14-day Case Rate by County
Updated 1/6/2021

Anoka: 44.2 Hennepin County 39.8

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.

Dear Members, I, along with all of you, are incredibly saddened by the events in our nation's Capitol on January 6th. Please read the email you received from the Anoka-Hennepin Communications Dept. containing advice from your union, the National Education Assoc., on how to address the concerns, worries and questions of your students surrounding that horrible, unbelievable incident. Our important position of educators who form the future of our society has never been more crucial than at this moment in history. Education is the great equalizer in our extraordinary country, and we must teach to recognize hatred, and teach that it is wrong, and has no place in an advanced society. In solidarity, Val Holthus

UPCOMING EVENTS AND IMPORTANT DATES

❖ Announcements:

- Filing Opens for AHEM Treasurer, Constitution and Bylaw Changes, and QComp Renewal, January 4, 2021
- AHEM Rep Assembly, Monday, January 11, 4:45
- School Board Meeting, Monday, January 11, 6:30
- No School, Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 18
- K-2 return to in-person learning, Tuesday, January, 19
- AHEM Executive Board Meeting, Monday, January 25, 4:45
- School Board Meeting, Monday, January 25, 4:45
- Filings Close for AHEM, Tuesday, January 26
- Grades 3-5 proposed to return to in-person learning, Monday, February 1
- AHEM Representative Assembly, Monday, February 1, 4:45
- AHEM Executive Board Meeting, Monday, February 8, 4:45
- School Board Work Session, Monday, February 8, 5:30
- Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14 ... Spread the Love
- President's Day, Monday, February 15, No School ... Wear your aviators!

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