



Northern Suburban  
Special Education District

January 25, 2021

Dear NSSED Families and Staff,

I am writing with important information on two items: our plans for inclement weather, and the COVID-19 vaccine administration.

### **Inclement Weather: Remote Instruction Days**

It looks like we could have a new challenge this week - inclement weather. We wanted to give everyone a "heads up" that if the weather forecast comes through as planned, we could experience significant snowfall heading into Tuesday. We are ready with snow removal equipment and a very skilled maintenance staff.

**In the event, however, that it is deemed that students cannot be transported to school safely, we are prepared to pivot to a remote instructional day for NSSED sites, instead of closing school. Basically, students and staff at NSSED sites would all work remotely, and would follow that specific day's typical school schedule.**

**As always, students who attend school in member district buildings or community partnerships, and NSSED staff who work in those locations, will follow the host site plans for inclement weather.**

If we do need to have a remote instructional day, it would not need to be made up later in the school year.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout for Educators**

In partnership with school districts across the county, the Lake County Health Department (LCHD) is currently planning and operationalizing COVID-19 vaccination locations. As LCHD is getting closer to opening vaccination sites, we wanted to provide you with important details below:

#### **Facts:**

- Although Governor Pritzker has recently identified Jan. 25 as the day Illinois would move into Phase 1b, Lake County has a disproportionately higher number of health care workers living and working in Lake County.

LCHD will need an extra week to complete the vaccinations for health care workers and residents of long-term care facilities in Lake County.

- LCHD expects to begin the vaccination effort of educators in Phase 1b in early February. A Round Lake site will open first, and then 2-3 days later a Stevenson site will open.
- Scheduling will occur on a weekly basis through the [AllVax](#) portal. The number of appointments will be limited by the number of vaccines provided to LCHD by the Federal government and the State of Illinois for the upcoming week.
  - This means that everyone will not be able to sign up for an appointment right away/the first week. They will be opened as we receive the vaccine.
  - Please be patient and know that you will all be accounted for.
- LCHD is currently planning for vaccination sites to be available for scheduling Monday - Friday 2:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Weekend hours are to be determined.
- LCHD will be reserving the Moderna vaccine for educators in Lake County, primarily for storage and logistics reasons. Educators will be alerted via the AllVax system when they should schedule their 2nd dose (no earlier than 28 days after the first dose). Priority in scheduling will be given to those signing up for their 2nd dose.
- This includes anyone who works at a school - including food service workers, teachers, bus drivers, teaching assistants and paraprofessionals, administrators, technology staff, custodial staff, and others that work in a school building that have not been vaccinated as part of 1a. Individuals who are part of 1a who are school staff, and have not yet had a vaccine can also receive the vaccine with this group.

**What families and staff can do right now:**

- If you have not done so already, register on LCDH's [AllVax](#) portal, which will be used for scheduling when it becomes available.
  - Registration is open to anyone, families or staff, who live or works in Lake County
  - Educators, as you go through the registration process, identify yourself as a "frontline essential worker." Please be sure that you are entering your information accurately.
  - You will be notified on or before Jan 29th to log-in to the [AllVax](#) site and update your registration information to include Lake County PK-12 Staff.
  - All Lake County PK-12 staff will be able to choose either vaccination location, whichever is the most convenient.

As more information becomes available, we will share updates with you. If you have any general questions about the AllVax portal or the vaccine, [please visit the LCDH](#)

[website](#). More general information about vaccination can also be found on [the IDPH website](#).

Kurt A. Schneider, Ph.D.  
Superintendent  
Northern Suburban Special Education District