



Northern Suburban  
Special Education District

November 5, 2020

Dear N SSE D Families and Staff,

### **North Shore Academy Adaptive Pause**

We have been notified of individuals at NSA testing positive for COVID-19 and others who have been identified as close contacts. Out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to place North Shore Academy into an [adaptive pause](#) per the Illinois Department of Public Health for next week where students and staff will engage in remote learning. To prepare, staff will have a planning day tomorrow, November 6, with no student instruction. This adaptive pause is based on the multiple confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 and close contacts, a desire to prevent any possibility of disease transmission, and our inability to presently provide an appropriate staffing level in the days ahead due to related required quarantines.

NSA will return to their blended/remote schedule November 16, 2020.

### **Regional Condition Information - Substantial Community Transmission**

Regions 9 ([Lake and McHenry County](#)) and 10 ([suburban Cook County](#)) continue with mitigation due to significant community transmission and increased risks associated with COVID-19. Public health officials also warn of increased hospitalization rates in all regions.

At a district level, we have developed a [dashboard](#) to show the status of N SSE D's considerations used to guide our learning model decisions. While there is no definitive variable over another, considerations are used to help foster problem-solving conversations for local decision-making.

### **Recommit to Health Guidance**

Follow the 3 Ws! Health officials continue to emphasize their importance if schools are able to continue providing in-person learning.

- Remember that wherever you go, you should always follow public health guidelines - the 3 Ws - to reduce your risk of getting and spreading COVID-19:
  - WEAR A MASK
  - WASH YOUR HANDS
  - WATCH YOUR DISTANCE

### **Flu Shot**

- Please get a flu shot. They are available now; don't wait!



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#### Travel

- Please limit your upcoming travel to reduce the risk of inadvertently bringing the virus to school and work. Regional public health officials caution that social gatherings such as holiday gatherings, weddings, family parties, and other larger events continue to be a main source of virus spreading. Please follow their guidance:
  - [Lake County Health Department Guidance for Travelers](#)
  - [Cook County Public Health Travel Guidance](#)
  - [Illinois Department of Public Health Travel Guidance](#)

#### **Blended Remote Learning Survey and Post-Winter Break Model Selection**

Before the end of this month we will be asking staff and families for feedback on their experiences with the Blended Remote Learning model in a survey. We will also ask families to decide whether their children will engage in remote learning or follow the model in use by the cooperative's programs after winter break. **A full remote option will be available to families** within each program as an option for those not comfortable sending their child. This option requires a commitment until the end of the school year for scheduling and staffing purposes.

#### **Unemployment and Pension Fraud Email Messages**

Please be aware of a recent rise in the number of scam attempts to obtain personal information. Specifically, bad actors are sending email messages purporting to provide opportunities for people to get information on unemployment or retirement benefits. Do not sign up for appointments or share your information with unknown parties.

Staff, if you are signed up for Life Insurance under NSSED's policy with Reliance Standard, you are automatically eligible to participate in [InfoArmor](#). This benefit not only helps with card-monitoring, but it can also provide assistance with restoration should you experience identity theft.

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