



CENTENNIAL SCHOOL | LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

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October 22, 2020

Dear Centennial Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide a healthy and safe environment for our students and staff. This school year presents all of us with many new challenges and protocols to follow. I know it has not been easy to comply with these new procedures and that disruptions to our lives and routines have been inevitable. Please know we are working assiduously to avoid pivoting to a distance learning format. **It is our goal to remain open for in-person learning.** In order to continue offering daily face-to-face instruction, we ask for your patience and understanding if your child is sent home with symptoms during the school day. If a student or staff member presents with any COVID related symptom, they will not be permitted to remain in school and will follow the guidance detailed in the [“Exclusion From and Return to School Requirements”](#) document. It is often hard to differentiate between symptoms of COVID-19, influenza, and the common cold and testing may be needed to confirm a diagnosis. We continue to follow the most up-to-date guidelines from the CDC, Department of Health, and Bethlehem Area School District regarding student illness.

Lehigh University requires all staff to complete a COVID-19 self-assessment daily to gain approval to report to work. Cold-like symptoms may prevent staff from gaining this approval. Because of this, we ask that students remain home despite a negative COVID-19 test result *if they are still symptomatic*. These symptoms can be contagious to staff as well as other students and can prevent the school from staying open. If you have any questions or would like guidance on when your student should return to school after being ill, please contact the school nurse at 610.266.6500. In the event of an extended absence, you may contact your child’s teacher for school work that can be completed at home.

This has been a challenging time in many ways. However, we are happy to report that there have been no positive cases of COVID-19 among the students and staff within our school. We are grateful for the efforts of our entire school family for working together to keep our school community safe. We recognize that it is our shared responsibility to monitor symptoms and stay home when feeling ill. By doing so, we have a much greater chance of remaining open for face to face instruction. Again, thank you for your continued support in helping us keep all of our students and staff healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Julie B. Fogt

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