

Elko County School District



Central Administrative Office

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Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Subject: Update on schools declared to be experiencing outbreaks

Dear ECSD Community,

I am happy to share the news that at the conclusion of its 28-day infectious cycle, one school has shown a consistent and sustained lower COVID-19 transmission rate. As a result, the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Division of Public and Behavioral Health (DPBH), has determined the outbreak status at Spring Creek Middle School to be over.

While the outbreak statuses remain for several other schools declared to be experiencing outbreaks since September, DPBH is seeing trends going in the right direction for these schools, and here at ECSD, we are optimistic that other schools who continue to follow outbreak mitigation measures will follow the same trend.

More outbreaks at ECSD schools could be declared over as early as next week, as DPBH continuously monitors schools who already marked their 28-day infectious cycle on a daily basis. While we hear from DPBH in the coming weeks on the status of most schools in the district, it's important to remember that transmission rates will continue to fluctuate. Based on what we experienced a year ago, once the cold weather established itself, there was another surge in school-based cases. It is very likely that schools will experience multiple declarations of outbreak status and conclusions of throughout the school year.

Per Directive 048, universal mask wearing for students at ECSD schools is lifted for schools not in outbreak status. However, students always have the option to wear face coverings inside District buildings if they elect to do so. All students exercising their options will be fully supported in their decision by District staff. All school staff, parents, volunteers, visitors and guests continue to be required to wear face coverings while inside District buildings, regardless of vaccination status.

We know students benefit from in-person learning, and we all play a part in making sure we are following the prevention strategies in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 within schools as provided in Directive 048.

We appreciate your understanding and patience during this volatile school year.

If your child(ren) attend any of the schools recently affected by outbreaks, you will receive communication directly from your child(ren)'s school administrator on what mitigation measures will be implemented or lifted.

Thank you for your continued support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Zander". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Interim Superintendent Jeff Zander