



Littleton Public Schools



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KELLY R. CLENCHY, Ed.D., SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Elizabeth M. Steele, Director of Teaching and Learning
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November 16, 2020

Dear Littleton Families,

As we approach Thanksgiving break, we are reminded that while it has been a difficult year, we have a lot for which to be grateful. We are grateful for the effort, patience and grace that has been shown by our students, staff and families. School as we once knew it, has undergone many changes and we continue to adapt as needed. We are thankful to be surrounded by a caring community of educators, staff and caregivers that want the best for their children.

We understand that in a typical year this break may be a time to travel and visit with family and friends, however, this year we ask that you seriously consider your holiday plans. Unfortunately, we are not in a typical year and as of late we have seen dramatic increases in the transmission of COVID-19. This has occurred across the country and Massachusetts, but it has also occurred specifically in Littleton. During the past month, Littleton has had a higher rate of confirmed cases than any of our surrounding communities. We need to work harder individually and as a community to model good behaviors in an effort to protect the health of our community and to help keep our schools open for in-person learning. Please review the attached guide for suggestions on what you can do to stay safe and healthy during the Thanksgiving holiday.


Although this letter is going to all families, only families that have children that are taking part in the hybrid model or participating in athletics or in-person extracurricular activities need to complete and submit this [Attestation Form](#). In order to keep our school buildings open for students and staff to safely learn and teach, we ask that you attest to the following statements included in the Attestation Form.

- During the break individuals residing in the household will avoid travel to locations other than low-risk states. (Low-risk states are defined per Massachusetts guidelines found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order#lower-risk-states-.>)
- During the break, individuals residing in the household will avoid participating in any social gatherings that violate Massachusetts guidelines regarding such gatherings. (Guidelines for social gatherings can be found at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-state-of-emergency#limits-on-gatherings->)

If you choose to decline to certify the above statements, or if you elect to not complete and submit the form, students in the family will not be permitted to participate as in-person learners (a) for 14 calendar days after school resumes at the end of the break or (b) until they provide proof of a negative test result for COVID-19 for such students. The test must be administered on or after three calendar days have passed following the resumption of school at the end of the break. Until then, these students may participate remotely.

We appreciate your support and attention to this matter. Our goal remains to continue to provide as much in-person learning for our students as possible in a safe environment. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to our childrens' education. Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving break.

Sincerely,


Dr. Kelly R. Clenchy
Superintendent of Schools


Mike Fontanella
School Committee Chair

It is the policy of the Littleton Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, gender, religion, national origin, color, homelessness, sexual orientation, gender identity, age or disability in its educational programs, services, activities or employment practices. Further information may be obtained by contacting Lyn Snow, District Equity Coordinator at 978-540-2500, lsnow@littletonps.org or 33 Shattuck Street, P.O. Box 1486, Littleton, MA 01460.

Our mission is to foster a community of learners who strive for excellence and prepare each student to be a successful, contributing citizen in a global society.

Thanksgiving During COVID-19

Keep it Small

- Members of **same household** or small group with regular contact
- **Virtual dinner with extended family is safest**
- Remember current gathering limits (max 10 indoors, 25 outdoors)
- Avoid in-person gatherings with people at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 (older adults, certain medical conditions)

Improve ventilation

- Outdoors is safer
- Open doors and windows

Wear a mask

- When not eating and drinking
- When preparing food

Wash your hands

- While cooking
- Before eating

Keep visits short

- Share the meal, not the day

When not to go

People diagnosed with, has symptoms of, or exposed to COVID-19 should avoid attending any in-person gathering

Higher levels of COVID-19 cases and community spread increase the risk of spread among attendees (even if you stay in Massachusetts)

Quarantine or get tested

- Stay home for 14 days before and after holiday gatherings
- Obtain a negative COVID-19 molecular test no less than 3 days before and a separate test 4-7 days after your event
- Follow your destination and MA travel guidances
www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-travel-order

Visit www.mass.gov/news/thanksgiving-during-covid-19 and www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays for more information