



SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Patrik D. Williams, Superintendent

Dear Smyrna School District Families:

As we approach the 2021-2022 school year, we are excited to be together in schools across the our district. We know the past year has been incredibly challenging and we are grateful for your continued collaboration as we enter the next phase of the pandemic – one that hopefully leads us back to safe, healthy, and supportive school environments for all students. With this in mind, I am sharing the following information provided to us courtesy of the Delaware Division of Public Health:

To ensure that we return in a way that is both safe and allows for us to all learn together, we hope that you, if you have not done so already, consider being vaccinated and ensuring that your student, if eligible, is also vaccinated before the beginning of the school year. Information on the vaccine for children 12-17 years old can be found on the Delaware Division of Public Health (DPH) website: <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/vaccine/> while locations with available vaccine can be found here: <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/vaccine/where-can-i-get-my-vaccine/>. All available COVID-19 vaccines, including the Pfizer vaccine approved specifically for individuals 12-17, provide a high level of protection and are extremely safe in all populations. For research-based information on the vaccine, please visit <https://coronavirus.delaware.gov/vaccine/about-the-science/>.

If you or your student has not yet received a vaccine, we invite you to join us at the State of Delaware's back-to-school-focused vaccination clinic on August 19th and September 9th from 4-8 PM at any of the following locations; please register by clicking the links below:

- **Howard High School of Technology** (401 E 12th St., Wilmington, DE 19801)
https://mhealthcheckin.com/covidvaccine?clientId=1627472629331®ion=Acme_-3&urlId=%2Fvcl%2Fhowardhigh
- **William Penn High School** (713 E Basin Road, New Castle, DE 19720)
https://mhealthcheckin.com/covidvaccine?clientId=1627473199214®ion=Acme_-3&urlId=%2Fvcl%2Fwilliampenn
- **Lake Forest Central Elementary School** (5424 Killens Pond Road, Felton, DE 19943)
https://mhealthcheckin.com/covidvaccine?clientId=1627473438476®ion=Acme_-3&urlId=%2Fvcl%2Flakeforest
- **Seaford Middle School** (500 E Stein Highway, Seaford, DE 19973)
https://mhealthcheckin.com/covidvaccine?clientId=1627473647471®ion=Acme_-3&urlId=%2Fvcl%2Fseafordmiddle

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Getting more of our middle and high school population partially or fully vaccinated prior to re-starting the 2021-2022 school year will greatly reduce the chance that COVID-19 will spread in our schools and, once again, disrupt learning. Children are at risk for illness *and* hospitalization from COVID-19, and the Delta variant, which is the predominant strain now in Delaware, spreads more easily among unvaccinated persons.

Individuals are “fully vaccinated” two weeks after their second dose of the *Pfizer* or *Moderna* vaccine or after just one dose of the *Johnson & Johnson* vaccine. We encourage you to come to one of the vaccination clinics listed above on August 19th or access the vaccine sooner at a nearby pharmacy, DPH clinic, primary care provider, or community site, to allow enough time for second doses to be delivered and increase the percentage of fully vaccinated eligible individuals in our schools.

In closing, please know that we continue to work with the State of Delaware on any necessary mitigation strategies including continued mask use, and social distancing, especially with unvaccinated individuals, as well as routine testing, and quarantine for those who have been exposed. However, as more individuals are vaccinated, we will be able to relax these mitigation strategies across all community settings, including schools, and our long-awaited return to in-person instruction will be a success.

Sincerely,

Patrik Williams
Superintendent