



November 18, 2022

Hello Lawrence Public Schools families, and an early happy Thanksgiving to you all!

Our students and families are first among the many things we have to be thankful for here at LPS, and I hope you are looking forward to a restful holiday with loved ones. Here are some important reminders and updates as we enter the short week:

- The break starts with a half day for all schools this Wednesday, November 23. Schools reopen on Monday, November 28.
- LPS is issuing rapid at-home COVID test kits to all students and staff to use during the Thanksgiving break as a back-to-school COVID mitigation measure. No sign-up is needed. A test kit will be sent home from school with your child on Tuesday. To help ensure the safest possible return to school, it is recommended that children test on Sunday, November 27, and positive results be reported to your school nurse. (Note that test kits have received an extended expiration date from the US Food & Drug Administration; you can confirm your test's expiration date [here](#).)
- LPS would like to hear from you on how we can further support students and families through federal Title I funding. I hope you'll find a brief moment to take our three-question survey, found [here in English](#) and [here in Spanish](#).
- Please take a moment to review the important advisory shared recently by the Massachusetts Department of Health – available [here in English](#) and [here in Spanish](#) – regarding regional increases in respiratory illness in infants and children, and steps you can take to stay healthy. To that end, please note the City of Lawrence is hosting COVID-19 vaccination clinics at an LPS school site on each of the next three Sundays; [see the clinic schedule here](#).
- I hope to see you at my next round of virtual Coffee Hours, on December 5, 6 and 7 from 5:30–6:30pm. Keep an eye out for an invitation with a Zoom link soon, and keep this [Save-the-Date flyer](#) for my entire 2022-23 Coffee Hours schedule.

Thank you all for a successful start to our school year this fall. Have a great weekend, and a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Cynthia Paris
Superintendent of Schools