

# November 2020 Essential Care through Minneapolis Kids Family Newsletter

## Hello Families,

We hope that you are all doing well and staying healthy during this difficult time. We want to continue to provide you with clear and accurate information about Essential Care through Minneapolis Kids, and this month's newsletter shares information about distance learning expectations, Non School Day registration, the MPS phase change, and more.

## Distance Learning

Distance learning can be challenging for some students, and it can be difficult for children to stay focused when on their devices. Minneapolis Kids staff provide basic technological support and classroom behavior management, but we ask that families help their children by blocking apps, games, and websites that do not contribute to their learning. A few potential apps to consider are [Kaspersky Safe Kids](#), [FamiSafe](#), and [Net Nanny](#). They offer free and paid family control options.

## November Non School Days

There are two non school days this month: Friday, November 6th and Wednesday, November 25th. Care will be provided on these days and only available to families who are currently enrolled in Essential Care. Families will need to register for care ahead of time via Eleyo, and the fee is \$42.20 per day. Please note that transportation and health services are not available on non school days.

## Winter Break

Winter break is from December 21st through January 1st. Minneapolis Kids will provide non school day care on December 21st-23rd and December 28th-30th and will be closed the other days. Registration through Eleyo for these non school days will open later in November, and the fee for non-school days is \$42.20 per day. **Low enrollment may result in sites being closed with no care available for the non school day and that will be communicated to affected families.**

## Phase Change

MPS has outlined five phases for returning safely to in-person learning and has proposed moving to Phase 3 starting November 9th. In Phase 3, the majority of learning will continue online, but there will be targeted student support provided in person at schools to provide targeted academic support as well as social/emotional support. Schools and teachers will identify the students that are eligible for these supports with priority given to students who qualify for special education supports, English language learners, and students who are experiencing homelessness. For more information about the MPS plan for 5 phases to safe learning, please visit: [https://mpls.k12.mn.us/5\\_phases\\_to\\_safe\\_learning](https://mpls.k12.mn.us/5_phases_to_safe_learning).

## Billing Cycle

Invoices are sent out on the first Friday of each month and payment is due the 16th of each month. Please note that if you are enrolled in auto-pay, the system will automatically withdraw money from your account on the 16th of every month. If you do not wish to participate in auto-pay, please log into your account and remove the auto-pay method.

## Voting

The following Essential Care sites will be open for public polling from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3rd: Anthony, Field, Lake Harriet Upper, and Northeast. Due to health and safety concerns these sites have been relocated for the day, and if your child(ren) attends one of these sites, this information has been previously communicated. If your children will not attend Minneapolis Kids on November 3rd due to voting, please email [mpls.kids@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:mpls.kids@mpls.k12.mn.us) as soon as possible, and that day will be canceled for you, and if applicable, you will not be charged for the day.

## Lights On Afterschool

Thursday, October 22nd was Lights On Afterschool which is a yearly national celebration of afterschool programs and the care they provide. This year Lights On Afterschool each Essential Care site celebrated in their own unique ways. Sites had youth make signs sharing what they love about afterschool programs, decorated their entry ways with youth-made lanterns, and more. We also asked families to share why afterschool programs matter to them and shared your kind words with our Minneapolis Kids staff. Thank you for helping us celebrate!

