



**LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
Henry J. Mroz Central Administration Offices  
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Joel D. Boyd, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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To: Dr. Joel Boyd, Superintendent of Schools  
From: Dr. James Hall, Chief Operating Officer  
Date: January 14, 2022  
Re: COVID-19 Temporary Leave

Our employees are presently entitled to Temporary Emergency Paid Sick Leave in an amount up to \$850 (including pay and benefits). For most employees, this would equate to approximately 2 extra sick days depending upon their compensation level and whether or not they receive health insurance. This is a \$75 million dollar state program which expires in April or whenever the funds are depleted (see Enclosure). Last school year, MOAs allowed for paid leave for employees who had to quarantine.

Given the requirements for quarantining and other challenges that COVID-19 has put on employees and our employees' daily efforts in confronting COVID-19's challenges, I request authority for you to approve up to 5 total sick days for employees who submit the enclosed application and who would otherwise qualify under the conditions of this program. So, instead of receiving 1-4 sick days depending upon their compensation level, all employees will receive 5 days which can be granted upon receiving the attached application along with a PCR test. We will only be able to seek reimbursement for up to \$850 per employee for these 5 days; however, this should provide a fairer approach to dealing with this issue. I request this authority be retroactive to July 1, 2021 and run until June 30, 2022.