

Lockport City School District

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Michelle T. Bradley, Superintendent of Schools

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December 17, 2020

Dear LCSD Parents/Legal Guardians,

As you may know, Lockport City School District schools are now situated in a yellow zone according to Governor Cuomo's micro-cluster initiative. The yellow zone designation goes into effect on Monday, December 21, 2020.

Last evening, Wednesday, December 16, 2020, the Board of Education discussed the impact of the yellow zone designation for our district, including required COVID-19 testing for schools to remain open in a hybrid instructional model.

The COVID-19 testing requirements include testing 20% of staff and students who are in the in-person hybrid model. Staff and students in the full remote instructional model do not need to be tested. In addition, the COVID-19 testing is to be completed within a two-week period, from December 21, 2020, to January 4, 2021. The District's winter recess is within the two-week period, complicating the testing period requirement. It is possible that the January 4 date may be extended by the governor, but we do not have any additional information at this time.

As a result of the discussion last evening, the following plan will be implemented to comply with the testing requirement, gather meaningful test results after the holiday season, and easier facilitate the management of the testing process:

- Yellow zone designation testing for Lockport will take place the week of January 4 through January 8, 2021. Any time before that or during winter recess would likely not be manageable or provide the District with an accurate picture of the infection rate post-holiday season. In order to conduct an efficient and safe testing process, **January 4, 2021 through January 8, 2021** will be full remote instructional model days for instructional staff and all students. The hope is that by January 11, 2021, the in-person hybrid instructional model will resume and our infection rate will be lower than the community rate.
- **Monday, December 21, and Tuesday, December 22** will also shift to the full remote instructional model days for instructional staff and all students knowing that the yellow zone designation takes effect on December 21 and LCSD will not be conducting COVID-19 testing on these two days.
- In order to resume the in-person hybrid instructional model on January 11, it is required that the District tests 20% of in-person staff and students. Failure to do so will likely lead to extending the full remote instructional model for instructional staff and all students. Please complete the Informed Consent Test Form by **December 22, 2020**. Forms may be completed by visiting the District website at www.lockportschools.org in the "Important Messages" or by clicking on the red circle with the exclamation point at the bottom right of the District website home page.
- When consent forms are returned, parents/legal guardians will be notified of how to register their child for a COVID-19 rapid test appointment, along with additional details related to testing protocols and procedures.
- The Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag CARD test which has been provided by the Niagara County Department of Health is a rapid test that provides results in 15 minutes. The test is a short swab test and uses a Q-tip-like swab inserted less than one inch into each nostril using a slight rotation in each nostril. It is much less

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We believe: All people can learn. Schools create conditions for success: academically, socially, emotionally, physically and aesthetically.
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invasive than other commonly used tests. Swabs will be taken by trained medical professionals. A video showing how the test is administered is available in the COVID-19 section of the District website.

Finally, all daily notification messages and global calls of positive COVID-19 cases in LCSD will be suspended during the winter recess. Positive cases can be tracked by visiting New York State's school covid report card at schoolcovidreportcard.health.ny.gov or by visiting the District's COVID-19 section on our website.

A very special thank you to all parents, legal guardians, and caretakers for your incredible support of teachers and the District, for the strong encouragement provided to your children, and for you all that you have had to do to make adjustments during the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope that you enjoy the upcoming holidays with loved ones. Stay safe and be well.

Sincerely,

Michelle T. Bradley
Superintendent of Schools

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