



Mr. Thomas J. Colabufo
Superintendent

October 1, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In our continuous effort to minimize student quarantines, provide timely notification to parents/guardians regarding quarantines, comply with all Health Department mandates, and preserve in-person learning, the District has taken the following measures:

- The District hired a COVID Coordinator that has been receiving training throughout this week and will start making the phone calls to parents/guardians beginning on Monday, notifying them of their child's quarantine and return date. This will provide our building principals with the opportunity to return their focus to all of the important responsibilities they have in overseeing the instruction and safety of their schools. The COVID Coordinator's name is Andrew Martin and he will be on call throughout the school day, evenings, and weekends, as he will be the point of contact with both local Health Departments. Assisting the COVID Coordinator with quarantine phone calls will be our District-wide nurse, Jolene VanAntwerp, when the COVID Coordinator is inundated with COVID-19 cases in the late afternoon and the phone calls need to be made to parents/guardians in a timely manner. This will allow us to contact parents in a timely manner so parents have more time to make arrangements regarding the supervision of their quarantined child(ren). We wanted all of you to be aware that COVID Coordinator Andrew Martin and District-wide nurse Jolene VanAntwerp will be contacting you starting on Monday to inform you if your child is being quarantined by the Health Department.
- We have found creative ways to distance students when they are eating their lunch that will keep them at least 6 feet apart, which eliminates any chance that students will have to be quarantined as a result of lunch. We have teachers, teaching assistants, and clerical we are compensating to help us supervise students during lunches, and we are extremely grateful to them. We are literally operating with "all hands on deck" to preserve in-person learning.
- Our most vulnerable area is our school buses because students will be quarantined by the Health Department, even though they are fully masked, if they are less than 3 feet apart. We are requiring siblings in the same household to sit in the same bus seat if they are in the same elementary school or if they are on the middle school/high school combined bus run because if one student in a household tests positive, the NYS Health Department's Quarantining Guidelines require everyone in that household to be quarantined for 10 days (unless they are fully vaccinated and showing no symptoms). School districts in NYS were able to return to full capacity 5 days a week for in-person learning because the NYS Health Department removed the 22 student per bus limit to allow school districts to bring all students back. In doing so, it does require students from different households to sit in the same seat because we are literally utilizing every seat on the school bus as we normally have done prior to the pandemic. If a student on the school bus tests positive, then the student sitting in that same seat, the seat directly in front and the seat behind the infected student must be quarantined according to the Health Department because they are less than 3 feet from the infected person and unfortunately the NYSDOH does not count the tall seat backs as barriers.

Our staff is working very hard to provide our students with the very best learning environment under the parameters that we are required to follow. Have a great weekend and enjoy your family time.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Colabufo
Superintendent