



Mr. Thomas J. Colabufo
Superintendent

April 5, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We continue to experience a significant spike in new positive COVID-19 cases across our District, which aligns with the current spike that has been reported across Central New York over the past two weeks. Both Oswego County and Onondaga County continue to report increased daily positive cases, so we want to remind all parents/guardians that we have plenty of at-home COVID-19 test kits that parents/guardians can pick up at their child's school in their main office. **We encourage parents/guardians to take these COVID-19 tests home this week so they have them on hand if their children are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms at the end of April break so they can test their children.** Since each COVID-19 at-home test kit includes a chemical reagent, we are not distributing the test kits directly to students. Please feel free to pick up as many tests as you believe you may need. Do not hesitate to pick up several boxes for each family member. As a reminder, it often takes 5-7 days after someone is exposed before these test kits will detect a positive.

We have regularly provided parents/guardians with the link to our COVID-19 Information page on our District's website that shows the daily COVID-19 case counts by school, seen [HERE](#). Over the past 14 days (March 22-April 4), we have had a total of 208 new positive cases, (144 students and 64 staff members). Our goal throughout the school year has been to preserve in-person learning and to provide consistency for our students regarding their academics as well as all extracurricular activities. We are thrilled that we have been able to maintain all extracurricular activities this school year without ever pausing in-person learning.

Since masking became optional for students and staff at the beginning of March, we have students and staff that continue to wear a mask while other students and staff chose to take their masks off. We respect the fact that parents/guardians have the parental right to decide whether their child will wear a mask at school. **New York State school districts do not have the authority to mandate masks for students (unless the student was COVID-19 positive and is returning to school on day 6 through day 10, OR when a household close contact to a positive person is symptomatic).** We are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated staff members here at Central Square. They continue to navigate through the pandemic while still connecting with students that are out on quarantine. This has been extremely challenging for our staff to accomplish, but in short, they love their students and will continue to provide them with high-quality instruction on a daily basis because supporting their students remains their top priority.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Colabufo
Superintendent