



West Irondequoit Central School District

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November 6, 2020

Dear West Irondequoit Families and Staff,

Earlier today, the Monroe County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) confirmed three new positive COVID-19 cases who are Irondequoit High School students. MCDPH determined that this cluster is traced back to community gatherings last week and was not transmitted at school. Any of these students who attend in-person instruction were last in attendance on October 30th.

At this time, the MCDPH has completed its contact tracing. If the MCDPH did not contact you or your child, there is no risk of exposure. As you know per federal privacy laws, we cannot disclose more details or personally identifiable information about COVID-19 cases. If you have information, questions, or concerns, please call the MCDPH's hotline at (585) 753-5555.

This letter offers another chance to reinforce the importance of practicing these **safety precautions**:

- **Face coverings (over the nose and mouth)**
- **Physical distancing**
- **Hand hygiene**

These must be followed at all times, including outside of school. We know there will be gatherings throughout the holiday season, and I don't believe it's my place to direct you on whether you should or shouldn't gather. I will, however, continue to strongly encourage everyone to protect our community's health and the integrity of our instructional programs by staying vigilant and following these precautions. We cannot let our guard down, not even with close friends and family outside of our household. This isn't a scare tactic, simply the reality if we hope to keep our children learning in an in-person, face-to-face model with our staff.

There was a rumor floating around last week that schools will be directed to close between Thanksgiving and Christmas. I can tell you this: That has not been given to me or the District by the County or State. What will dictate whether in-person learning continues will be the infection rate. If our regional infection rate elevates above the established guidelines, schools will be directed to only full-remote instruction or will need to establish complex, regular COVID-19 testing strategies to return. Again, we hold the power to manage this. Let's work together to make sure we minimize COVID-19 transmission by practicing the safety precautions outlined above.

For more information about the NYS Micro-Cluster Strategy, visit the NYS Forward website [HERE](#).

Together,

Aaron R. Johnson, Ed. D
Superintendent of Schools