



West Irondequoit Central School District

321 LIST AVENUE
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14617
Telephone: (585) 342-5500
FAX: (585) 266-1556
www.westirondequoit.org

November 23, 2020

Dear Families and Staff,

Monday's Announcement

Governor Cuomo announced today, as it relates to his Micro-Cluster Strategy, that parts of Monroe County are being elevated to an Orange Zone status. That includes portions of Irondequoit but for now is limited to the 14609 and 14621 zip codes. Town Supervisor Seeley has been in direct communication with the Governor's office and they have said that if our District's zip code of 14617 continues on its current trajectory, West Irondequoit could be next. Friends, we have the ability to flatten the curve in our school community and keep our houses of worship, businesses and most importantly schools open. We have done a great job of keeping school safe so far. We know this because we had zero positive cases out of the nearly 800 people tested last week. Please, remember the following:

- Limit social gatherings
- Wear a mask over the nose and mouth around people outside of our immediate household
- Regularly sanitize our hands

The Town of Irondequoit is planning to offer free drive-thru testing this weekend (**CORRECTION:** This may happen soon but not this weekend). Whether it's there, through your health care provider, or a local clinic, having your family tested will help to drive down our numbers. Just like last week's testing in our schools, which yielded zero positive cases, you can drive up the denominator in our zip code's 7-day positivity rate by adding more negative tests. For the sake of our children, **please, consider having a COVID-19 rapid test** if offered and being cautious while interacting with people outside of your home during this holiday season.

Orange Zone Overview

We dodged one today but must keep our eyes on the criteria for becoming an orange zone. To help, here is a quick review of the **ORANGE ZONE** classification regarding schools:

- Zip Code has a 7-day rolling average positivity rate above 4% for 10 consecutive days
- Schools:
 - Must remain closed for at least 4 calendar days after the zone designation announcement and all learning will happen remotely
 - All faculty, staff, and students must receive a negative COVID-19 test before returning to in-person instruction
 - Specimen collection must be after the date the zone was established
 - Once open, schools must test a unique group of 25% of their in-person students and staff each week. If testing occurs through the fifth week, schools will loop back to test the first 25%.

Reopening under an Orange Zone

If our zip code is elevated to Orange, all classes grades K-12 will be limited to only full-remote learning starting the day after the announcement. Depending on the timing and our ability to offer onsite testing, we will do our best to reopen schools on the fifth day. To do this, we will need the vast majority of our in-person student population to participate in testing. If not, all students will fall into full-remote learning. Here is a breakdown of the two scenarios:

1. 95-100% In-person students participate in testing

- a. We have analyzed our capacity to add more remote learning to our current classes and have very limited availability, about 3-7 students per grade in K-6. For us to offer both a hybrid and remote learning model under the Orange Zone guidelines, the majority (95-100%) of current in-person students must participate in testing. If a current in-person student does participate in testing but tests positive, they will not be added to the 100% remote classes. Instead, they must follow the defined protocols to return to their in-person placement.
- b. Many of you have already consented your children for the rapid antigen testing we offered last week that allowed us to easily reach the 20% needed. To entertain in-person learning under in an Orange Zone designation we need a lot more. If you have not given consent to testing your child(ren) and want to now, please complete this **COVID-19 TEST CONSENT FORM emailed to you**. This will help us determine whether we can pursue a return to in-person learning.

2. Fully remote learning ONLY

- a. If most of our current in-person students do not test negative after being designated an Orange Zone, all students will fall to full-remote learning. [CLICK HERE](#) to see what that would look like for our K-6 and 7-12 students:

Please note: For WICSD families who live in 14621, you are not impacted. The Orange Zone only applies if the school your children attend falls with the zone.

Like me, you're probably on information overload right now. It is frustrating that these COVID-related guidelines continue to change. However, those are beyond our control. What we **CAN DO** is focus on our own behaviors. As your Superintendent, I am not trying to nose my way into your business. All I ask is that you carefully consider your options and if you gather with friends and/or family. Please be safe.

I am thankful for so many things in my life, such as continued health, faith, family and the outstanding community that I serve. Thank you for staying engaged and supporting our schools through the thick and thin.

With gratitude,



Aaron R. Johnson, Ed. D
Superintendent of Schools