January 4, 2022

Dear Orchard Park Families:

First and foremost, let me say thank you for taking the time to pick up antigen tests at the Middle School yesterday evening. We distributed approximately 4,100 kits in just over 3 hours!

The District was made aware of the following case(s) of COVID-19:

- Thirty-one individuals tested positive for COVID-19 at the High School. Contract tracing was deemed unnecessary.
- Thirty-two individuals tested positive for COVID-19 at the Middle School. Contract tracing is in process.
- Eight individuals tested positive for COVID-19 at Windom Elementary. Contract tracing has been completed.
- Seven individuals tested positive for COVID-19 at South Davis Elementary. Contract tracing has either been completed or was deemed unnecessary.
- Ten individuals tested positive for COVID-19 at Egger Elementary. Contract tracing has either been completed or was deemed unnecessary.
- Fourteen individuals tested positive for COVID-19 at Ellicott Elementary. Contract tracing has either been completed or was deemed unnecessary.

I wanted to provide clarity to questions that have come about as a result of recent announcements from local, state, and federal public health agencies. In Erie County, all quarantine, close contact, and Test to Stay decisions are made by the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH).

What do I do if my child tests positive for COVID?

If your child tests positive for COVID at a clinic or with an at-home test, please do the following:

- Begin isolating your child immediately
- If your child tested positive with an at-home test, please report the positive result to the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) using this link
- Contact your child’s school nurse to let them know the date the symptoms started

How long will my child need to quarantine if they test positive for COVID?

If your child tests positive for COVID, the period of isolation remains 10 days. During that time, your child will not be able to attend in-person classes or school activities.
How long will my child need to quarantine if they are identified as a close contact?

The ECDOH has implemented a test-out program. After 5 asymptomatic days, a negative COVID test allows the quarantined person to return to school on day 8. The tests can be antigen (rapid) or PCR and they must be confirmed by a lab. No at-home tests can be accepted. (Click here to access the “Release from Quarantine with COVID-19 Testing” document from the ECDOH.)

Will my child need to quarantine if they are vaccinated and identified as a close contact?

No. As long as your child is fully vaccinated and asymptomatic, they will not be required to quarantine.

Does the Orchard Park Central School District have a “Test-to-Stay” program?

Not yet. Like other districts in Erie County, Orchard Park is currently working with the ECDOH to put in place the protocols needed to set up a “Test-to-Stay” program. We are hoping to have additional information to share at the end of the week.

How can I find a testing site in Erie County?

If you click here, you will find information on testing sites from the ECDOH.

As always, thank you for your support and understanding as we navigate the weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

David Lilleck
Superintendent of Schools