September 24, 2021

Dear Orchard Park Families:

The District was notified by the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) yesterday that they are revising their guidance for schools by adopting the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) guidance, linked here. Since the start of the school year, many local Superintendents have been advocating for the ECDOH to align their guidance with the NYSDOH guidance in an effort to have one set of guidelines and mandates that will continue to ensure we can keep our students and staff in a safe learning environment.

Beginning on Monday, September 27, the following changes will be put in place to align with the NYSDOH school guidance:

- The District will no longer be mandated to require parents to complete the online daily health screening form. We do request that parents/guardians continue to screen their students at home prior to leaving for school and keep them home if they have a fever or any symptoms of illness.
- The ECDOH will no longer quarantine all unvaccinated students in a classroom after two positives within a 10 day period. Rather, close contacts and quarantine decisions will be based on vaccination status, as well as proximity to a positive case of closer than 3’ for greater than 15 cumulative minutes in a 24 hour period.
- *State regulations for wearing face coverings while in school and on the bus have not changed and are still required.*

Also, I wanted to inform the District that today one individual has tested positive for COVID-19 at the Middle School. Contact tracing by the ECDOH has been completed.

I value our partnership in ensuring the success of all students.

Sincerely,

David Lilleck
Superintendent of Schools