

December 10, 2020 Educational Update

Good Afternoon WCSD Learning Community:

COVID-19 Update

As you may be aware, the District has had over [56 positive cases of COVID-19 reported to us since the end of October](#). Please know that the District has followed up appropriately, in accordance with the Department of Health regulations and our District Reopening Plan, with all of these cases. In most instances, it has been necessary for the District to reach out to staff members or families indicating the need to have staff or students, respectively, quarantine for 14 days from the point of exposure with an individual who tested positive.

We are sharing the most updated guidance from New York State regarding the testing requirements necessary to follow in the event that the State identifies a micro-cluster within our District. In the event that the District is required by NYS to adhere to mandatory testing guidelines (based on the restrictions identified below) in order for us to continue providing in-person instruction, it is our intention to do so (within the capacity that the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health is able to support our efforts). We are currently in discussions with the Department of Health, and various testing entities, to determine the logistical approach necessary to successfully adhere to the testing requirements that may be imposed by New York State in our District.

The latest guidance from the [New York State Department of Health regarding School Reopening in Yellow, Orange, and Red Micro-Cluster Zones](#) was updated on December 4, 2020.

RESTRICTIONS BY CLUSTER ZONE

Type of Activity	Red	Orange	Yellow
Schools	Closed* Remote-only	Closed* Remote-only	Open 20% weekly testing of in-person students and faculty

**Schools may reopen if they follow [new guidelines](#) that require mass testing in schools before they reopen followed by vigilant symptom and exposure screening conducted daily.*

We know that these State documents are at times overwhelming. Please know that we will continue to break down what it is we need to do, and why we need to do it as the health climate in our region changes. As always, it is our goal to provide the best hybrid learning environment we can, in the most healthy and responsible way.

Take care and be well!

Sincerely,

Dr. Dwight Bonk
Acting Superintendent
Wappingers Central School District

**Please note that during this pandemic, which began impacting schools in March 2020 and the subsequent Governor's Orders, the communications provided in the District's Updates may be subject to change, pending any future modifications made by the Governor's office, the Department of Health, the CDC, and the New York State Education Department. In this ever changing environment, many things are not guaranteed.*