

Dear New Hartford Community,

Yesterday, the district shared important information regarding recent state guidance on the COVID-19 pandemic. We included details about New York State's Cluster Action Initiative (and its three color zones of activity restriction) as well as the latest travel advisory information.

These important public health considerations have the potential to impact our ongoing educational efforts. While our region is not currently categorized in any of the restricted activity zones, New Hartford Central School District, along with our neighboring schools, are being proactive in following state guidance.

One important recommendation that New York State has made is that schools should prepare for on-site testing if infection rates rise, regional activities are restricted, but schools wish to remain open. We are exploring with local health care partners potential arrangements for testing if and when necessary. However, we are not at this moment committed to testing students and staff. As it stands today, our district is able to provide in-person and fully remote instruction without testing students and staff for COVID-19.

Our district is in the process of developing a testing plan to help inform the decision making process for our district moving forward, including all necessary permission slips to parents and teachers regarding testing for the virus. As always, decisions will be made with careful consideration for our entire school community and every effort will be made to ensure the health and well-being of our students and staff. We hope that this information helps our school community be fully aware of the many evolving aspects of this pandemic as it relates to successfully educating our children.

Sincerely

Robert J. Nole
Superintendent New Hartford Schools