

NEW HARTFORD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
ROBERT J. NOLE

November 19, 2020

Dear New Hartford School Community:

Today, our district learned that four individuals are positive for COVID-19. Due to privacy laws we are not able to share the identity of the individuals or share details of these cases. The Oneida County Department of Health (DOH) is currently completing their contact tracing efforts. Like you, the district is concerned about local COVID-19 trends, as well as the safety and well-being of our campuses; it is indeed our number one priority.

Coronavirus infection rates continue to rise during this second wave. In fact, the rate of infection in our county has tripled since the month began. This increased rate presents new challenges to a timely completion of contact tracing efforts by the DOH. The overall situation has greatly affected our capacity to safely educate our students, especially when it comes to securing adequate numbers of substitute teachers, cleaners, school safety officers, monitors, and bus drivers. As underscored in our reopening plans this past summer, our district has been prepared to pivot from in-person to fully remote instruction as required by circumstances associated with COVID-19.

Therefore, New Hartford Central School District will be fully remote from Friday, November 20, 2020 through December 4, 2020. There will be no in-person classes on campus, including special education programs. In addition, all district-wide in-person extracurricular activities continue to be cancelled until further notice. This decision will help keep students, staff, families and our community as safe as possible during this period of remote learning. Our focus will remain on fully remote instruction through December 4 unless other plans are prompted by local or state officials. Please review the following key aspects of instruction over the next two weeks:

- Elementary hybrid students will meet their teachers for fully remote lessons as they did during the fully remote opening of school this past September.
- All students that have been enrolled in fully remote classes grades K-5 will continue to attend fully remote classes with their fully remote co-teachers.

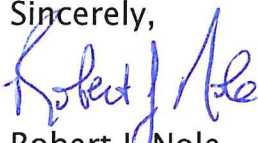
- Elementary students enrolled in pilot classes and sixth graders will continue to meet with their classroom teachers.
- Secondary students will attend classes as they ordinarily would on remote days.

Teachers will use Zoom to deliver live video instruction, and Google Classroom to manage learning materials and post assignments. Students are asked to follow the guidance of their classroom teacher(s) for their daily schedule. Teachers will provide students and their families with specific schedules. Service providers (e.g., speech, OT, and PT) will be in contact with students to continue remote sessions to the greatest extent possible. Grab and go meals will be available at the Senior High front entrance lobby and Myles Elementary School playground entrance from 9:30-10:30 AM.

If the DOH has determined that you or your child was in close proximity to the individuals who tested positive, and may be impacted, they will be notified by school or DOH officials who will provide further guidance. For this reason it is important that you are prepared to answer your phone, even if you do not recognize the caller, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

If your child or anyone else in your household exhibits symptoms of COVID-19, they should be assessed by their healthcare provider (HCP) as soon as possible. Call your child's HCP before going to the office or clinic to tell them about your child's COVID-19 symptoms. If your child does not have a HCP, call your local health department.

Please contact your building principal if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your cooperation, understanding and support as we all work together to navigate this challenging time. From the bottom of my heart, I wish everyone that has contracted the virus a speedy recovery.

Sincerely,


Robert J. Nole
Superintendent of Schools