

Lancaster Central School District

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Michael J. Vallely, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

January 28, 2021

Dear Lancaster Families,

Thank you for your continued understanding and flexibility as together we navigate this school year. Yesterday, Governor Cuomo lifted the orange zone designation for Erie County and, in effect, removed the mandate to continue COVID-19 testing in order for schools to maintain in-person learning. As you may recall, the designation of Erie County as an orange zone, as part of the NYS Microcluster Strategy on November 23, 2021 prompted the Lancaster Schools to conduct COVID-19 testing on 20% of our faculty, staff, and students over a one month period. This was the main impact of Governor Cuomo's orange zone designation on schools. Therefore, effective immediately, we will stop COVID-19 testing in our schools at this time.

The support from the Lancaster community was overwhelmingly positive as nearly 75% of faculty, staff, and students provided consent to be part of the testing process. Our school nurses, administrators, and principals did a wonderful job creating, organizing, and leading the testing process in an effective and efficient manner. We remain ready if we need to begin the COVID-19 testing process again in order to remain open to in-person instruction.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Vallely, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools