

Lancaster Central School District

*Superintendent's Office
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*Michael J. Vallely, Ph.D.
Superintendent*

December 3, 2020

Dear Lancaster School District Students, Staff and Families:

I hope you and your loved ones are healthy and safe. As you know, due to Governor Cuomo's November 18th designation of our community as an [Orange Zone](#), our district is operating in a fully remote instructional program.

Our goal remains to have our young people in school, learning to the fullest extent possible. We are constantly assessing our zone designation and the many factors that will allow us to appropriately, safely, and effectively return our students to the in-person hybrid model.

At his press conference on Monday, Governor Cuomo pivoted the COVID-19 testing parameters for schools that are in Orange and Red Cluster Zones. Unfortunately, we have NOT yet received the new Orange Zone guidance from the Governor or the NYS Department of Health regarding the changing parameters, COVID-19 testing requirements, and/or other regulations.

As soon as we have the new expectations from the Governor and the Department of Health, and they are evaluated in relation to our capacity here in Lancaster CSD to accomplish them, we will update the school community. Until then, we will need to remain in our fully remote learning environment for all students.

With that in mind, we do know that a key expectation to return to in-person instruction will be random COVID-19 testing. We have been working to educate parents on what their consent to testing will mean for their child (see the [LCSD COVID-19 Testing video](#) and the [LCSD COVID-19 Consent Form](#)). Presently, we have over 2,500 students who have parental consent and 525 staff members who have consented. Ideally, approval to perform more tests would strengthen our position as we move forward. Please consider participating in Lancaster's COVID-19 testing. If you have additional questions, please visit our [COVID-19 Testing Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

In the next few days, you will receive a Google Form to complete regarding the selection of a learning model for the remainder of the school year. Please complete the form as soon as possible as the information is integral for planning and scheduling.

Thank you for all your efforts to stay connected to our LCSD community during this challenging time. Please continue to communicate with your child's building principal and teachers should you have questions or concerns regarding this transition. We are committed to serving you and meeting the needs of ALL our students.

Sincerely,



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