



NEWARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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NEWARK, NEW YORK 14513

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Every Student, Every Day

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Yellow Zone Informational Letter and Consent Form to Test

November 20, 2020

Dear Newark Central School District Families,

At this time we continue to be proactive in our preparation and responses to COVID-19 and its impact on our school community. We have been advised to begin planning just in case Wayne County or our region is designated a "Yellow Zone" by Governor Cuomo's Micro-Cluster initiative. Numerous counties and regions have received such designation already with some actually being elevated to even higher levels of intervention. As you read the remainder of this communication, **please understand that neither Wayne County nor our school district have been designated a "Yellow Zone" at this time.**

Under the Micro-Cluster initiative, schools or zones that are designated a Yellow Zone will be required to test 20% of in-person students, faculty and staff randomly over the designated two-week period. If the Newark CSD is unable to meet this State requirement, we will need to move everyone to fully remote instruction.

If the results of the testing reveal that the positivity rate among the 20% of those tested is lower than the Yellow Zone's current 7-day positivity rate, testing at the school will no longer be required to continue. A positivity rate in a school that is lower than in the Yellow Zone is a sufficient demonstration that in-person instruction is not a significant driver of local viral spread. The current positivity rate for zones can be found at: <https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard>. However, if the results of the testing over the first two weeks reveal that the positivity rate among in-person student, staff and faculty is higher than the Yellow Zone's current 7-day positivity rate, the school will be required to continue to test 20% of the in-person population on a bi-weekly basis.

- ✓ The test is different from the ones you may have already experienced. The new rapid COVID-19 test that will be used is less invasive and involves a quick swab inside the lower part of the nose.
- ✓ They will be done on campus by trained staff at no cost to the parent or employee.
- ✓ You will be notified within 24 hours of any positive result.
- ✓ If your child is randomly selected, you will be notified before any testing is done.

To participate in the free diagnostic testing, students and staff will need to complete the COVID-19 Consent Form. A test will not be administered without parental / guardian consent. To help us prepare for a possible transition to Yellow Zone designation, we are asking families **to complete and return the electronic form** for each child attending school in the District. **Forms must be completed by Monday, November 30th.**

Here is the link to the Consent Form:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=dmmgpewwNk-_NT-kBnGJcPkA2NJ1wO5LqcrJtSCGIAtUMVM2R0E1T1pRNEhDU0JSWUwyWke2SkFEVS4u

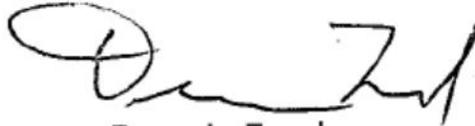
If for some reason you are unable to complete the form electronically and require a hard copy, please contact Stacy Warren at (315) 332-3217.

Additional information on the Micro-Cluster metrics can be found here:

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-details-covid-19-mirco-cluster-metrics>

As always, we thank you for being our partners in education, supporting our collaborative work to ensure the children in our community are provided equitable access to instructional opportunities. We ask that you continue to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 by washing your hands, practicing social distancing, wearing a mask and avoiding large gatherings.

Stay Well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Ford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a stylized "F".

Dennis Ford
Interim Superintendent of Schools