

Superintendent Announcement- 12/14/20

Testing Zones

Governor Cuomo has implemented a cluster action initiative that was developed to address COVID-19 hot spots as they occur. Following is information on the initiative and how this will affect our district moving forward. The initiative divides clusters and areas around them into three categories- the cluster itself (red zone), a warning zone (orange zone), and a precautionary zone (yellow zone). **Please note that if Clinton County continues to see surges in cases, especially following holiday gatherings, we could soon reach the YELLOW ZONE. If this happens we will be required to begin a testing program.**

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has decided that districts open to in-person instruction are required to test 20% of the in-person students, teachers, and staff at each school over the two week period immediately following the announcement of yellow zone designation.

The Northeastern Clinton CSD is working to become certified to administer rapid COVID tests in the school setting. The district will randomly choose 20% of the in-person population at each school for testing. Parents/guardians will be notified of testing at least 24 hours in advance. Your child will not be required to be tested; we will test only with your consent. The test is quick and painless, utilizing a shallow nasal swab. Test results will be available in 15 minutes. There is no cost to families for the testing. **Participation with this voluntary testing is necessary in order for our district to remain open for in-person learning.**

Over the next couple of weeks, the district will send out more specific information regarding the testing process, and our preliminary schedule. This information will include a video that illustrates exactly how the test will be administered. We will also include a link to an online consent form.

You will be notified of your child's test results by a phone call from the nurse if positive, or a text message or email if the test is negative.

Research recognizes that safely keeping schools open for in-person learning is critical to student success and family stability. The district is committed to continuing with our in-person instructional model. With your cooperation, we are hopeful that we will remain able to do so. We remain Cougar Strong!

Snow Days

Districts across New York State have been granted permission by the New York State Education Department to implement a "snow day pilot program" for this calendar year, giving schools the option of participating in remote instruction during inclement weather instead of using the "traditional snow day." The Northeastern Clinton CSD is choosing to stay with our traditional model, giving students the day off from instruction, to offer a sense of "normalcy" during this difficult time. The district believes, because of the public health crisis and the effects it's had on our mental health, that it's in everyone's best interest to give our students, staff, and families a break from instruction. Having the opportunity to make snowballs, build forts, drink hot chocolate, take a nap, and shovel the driveway are the memories we build on these special days. The district has (5) snow days built into the calendar year. Should the district exhaust all five days, we would then participate in remote instruction during school closure due to inclement weather.