



## Superintendent Announcement- 1/2/2021

### **POSITIVE CASES**

The Clinton County Health Department notified the district on Wednesday, 12/30/20, that an employee working in our high school was diagnosed with coronavirus (COVID-19). On Friday, 1/1/21, they informed us that a high school student also tested positive. In addition, but unrelated to these new positive cases, other students in the middle/high school are in quarantine. As cases surge in Clinton County, in-person instruction in our middle/high school becomes more difficult to maintain due to shared staff and teachers specializing in their content areas moving between classes and cohorts.

### **Our Schools**

**The elementary schools will remain OPEN, with students returning on Monday, January 4, 2021.**

**The middle and high school students (including students in self-contained classrooms) will be LEARNING REMOTELY from January 4, 2021 - January 8, 2021.** Students attending CV-TEC and Special Education programs at CVES per NYS Education Department guidance, will continue to have classes and district transportation will be provided even when the home school is learning remotely. Administration, teachers, and staff will remain on site and will be available.

### **Possible Future Closures**

Clinton County has witnessed a surge in cases. As stated in earlier announcements, it is important for families to begin planning for alternatives should we need to close our district for a period of time. We understand child care may be an issue for our younger students so we encourage our families to start planning now.

### **How You Can Help**

The district reopening team has worked diligently on our plan. We remain committed in being transparent and communicating happenings to our families. Working together is critical as we strive to keep our schools open.

If your child is sick, or has been around someone that has been sick, please **DO NOT** send him/her to school. Also, please continue to conduct the daily health screening that you signed and submitted prior

to sending your child for in-person instruction in September. When in doubt, we request you keep your child home and contact the building nurse for further recommendations.

To help limit the surge in cases, we recommend taking a pause from any type of gathering outside your family. The district strongly encourages taking a 8-10 day pause from extracurricular activities involving groups, particularly those that involve individuals from other communities.

We all have different opinions regarding the public health emergency. However, we must do our part to control the surge and keep each other safe. If we as a community refuse to follow the recommendations of health professionals, we will face a greater risk of having all school-related sports and extracurricular events shut down, including in-person learning which we know is critical to the success of our students. Though inconvenient, taking a short-term pause has great potential to deliver long term benefits. We're all tired and frustrated and want some sense of "normalcy". However, even with the implementation of a vaccine distribution plan, we must continue to follow the appropriate health and safety protocols outlined by the Public Health and Education Agencies. Together, we can continue to make the best of a difficult situation while we remain Cougar Strong!