



Sachem Central School District

Christopher J. Pellettieri, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

November 20, 2020

Dear Sachem Family,

As we stand at the precipice of Thanksgiving week, I would like to thank you for helping us get to where we are today. All schools are up and running, educating our youngsters as we arrive at Thanksgiving with December just around the corner. Who would have thought with all the issues and obstacles in our way, in the midst of a pandemic, that we could accomplish such a feat. While this speaks volumes to the professionalism of Sachem Administrators, Teachers and Staff, I feel as though I would be remiss without also thanking you, the parents and our students for recognizing the importance of keeping everyone safe and healthy. It is because of our partnership with you that we could in fact keep schools open for in person learning. Today I was on a call with the Governor's Office and they along with the County Executive have been very wise in looking at the actual data around COVID -19 cases in schools. They are recognizing schools are their own entities and that schools are not a vector for virus spread. We deserve to be treated differently than the wider community. To that end, I will reiterate we are not facing any sort of imminent transition to distance learning. That can and may change in the future, but we are doing a great job in keeping our students and staff safe in schools. Rest assured if we do need to move to testing the staff and students as a yellow zone would indicate, we will have a plan and will communicate with you in advance of any such decision from the Suffolk County Department of Health or State DOH.

I would like to apprise you for transparency sake as I have in the past that there were, over the past two days, three cases at Samoset, a case at Waverly and three cases at North HS. This brings our total of positive students and staff cases since September to 49 out of 14,000 people. That is a positivity rate of less than one half of one percent.

You may recall we put a plan in place to return our ICT students to our secondary buildings full time. We are taking receipt of and placing the desk shields we would need in order to do this over these next few days. We would like to announce that tentatively, the return date for ICT students would be November 30, 2020. More information will follow next week.

51 School Street
Lake Ronkonkoma,
NY 11779
631.471.1336



#WeAreSachem

Email: CPELLETTIERI@sachem.edu | www.sachem.edu



Sachem Central School District

Christopher J. Pellettieri, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

As we enter the holiday season, it is important to be mindful of the updated NY State Travel Advisory issued by Governor Cuomo effective November 4th. The district is working diligently to protect the health and safety of our students and staff, and as partners in this effort, we are asking all families to communicate with your building principals if you plan on traveling to/from identified high risk states. You will also be required to complete the link below for return to school. If you are opting to test out of the 14-day quarantine you must provide and upload the two COVID tests result in accordance with the NYS Travel Advisory directives by completing sections 1, 2 & 3 on the google form. If you are choosing to quarantine for the full 14 days upon returning to NYS, use the same google link and complete sections 1 & 2 on the form. This must be completed using your child's Sachem Google Email and one form per child.

Please use the included links for the Sachem's Holiday Break Travel Advisory Form for Students for your child's corresponding building:

- [Cayuga](#)
- [Chippewa](#)
- [Grundy](#)
- [Hiawatha](#)
- [Lynwood](#)
- [Merrimac](#)
- [Nokomis](#)
- [Tamarac](#)
- [Waverly](#)
- [Wenonah](#)
- [Sagamore](#)
- [Samoset](#)
- [Seneca](#)
- [East](#)
- [North](#)

Please review the travel advisory link below:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory#restricted-states>

Travel to NYS from a non-contiguous state, US territory or CDC level 2 or level 3 country: For travelers who were out-of-state in a restricted travel area for more than 24 hours:

51 School Street
Lake Ronkonkoma,
NY 11779
631.471.1336



#WeAreSachem

Email: CPELLETTIERI@sachem.edu | www.sachem.edu



Sachem Central School District

Christopher J. Pellettieri, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools

- If you choose to “test out” of the mandatory 14-day quarantine you must provide the school with the negative test result (out of state test) as well as the negative test result from day 4 of your quarantine (in NY).
- Travelers must obtain a COVID test within three days of departure, prior to arrival in New York.
- The traveler must, upon arrival in New York, quarantine for three days.
- On day 4 of their quarantine, the traveler must obtain another COVID test. If both tests come back negative, the traveler may exit quarantine early upon receipt of the second negative diagnostic test.
- If you are unable to do the 2 tests, then you must quarantine for 14 days upon your return to the state.

For travelers who were out-of-state in a restricted travel area for less than 24 hours:

- The traveler does not need a test prior to their departure from the other state and does not need to quarantine upon arrival in New York State.
- However, the traveler must fill out the NY State traveler form upon entry into New York State, and take a COVID diagnostic test 4 days after their arrival in New York which you can find on the travel advisory link above.

Please stay well and of course feel free to reach out to your schools or me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Have a great weekend and stay safe.

Chris Pellettieri

51 School Street
Lake Ronkonkoma,
NY 11779
631.471.1336



#WeAreSachem

Email: CPELLETTIERI@sachem.edu | www.sachem.edu