

# PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2829 CHURCH STREET • PINE PLAINS, NEW YORK 12567-5504

TEL: (518) 398-7181 FAX: (518) 398-6592

WWW.PPCSD.ORG

January 21, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to update you on the status of our schools. As of this morning, we have 18 staff members at Stissing Mountain Jr. Sr. HS, 5 staff members at Seymour Smith ILC and 9 staff members at Cold Spring ELC in quarantine. These quarantines were the result of an actual COVID case or a close contact with an infected individual. Contact tracing has been completed in call cases where it was required.

The lack of staff has forced us to transition to remote learning in all of our schools. Tentatively, we hope to return to the hybrid format on Monday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. That will depend on our staff completing their current quarantine and hopefully, no new cases that would require additional quarantine periods.

It is critical for everyone, students and staff, to follow our COVID protocols. Face coverings, social distancing and frequent hand hygiene are necessary if we are to avoid further infections. When we do return to hybrid, completion of our health screener on a daily basis will also be very important.

I have been asked if our staff is getting the COVID vaccine. All of the school staff is eligible for vaccinations under the State guidelines, however, the vaccine is in short supply and appointments are difficult to get. We are strongly encouraging all of our staff members to continue to try to get appointments as soon as they become available.

Regarding the testing of students and staff, there are no plans currently to do a testing program. The State has decided not to make tests available to schools unless they are in a zone that requires testing. Currently, the positivity rate for infections has dropped slightly and we are hoping that we can avoid the mandate.

As a reminder, if the remote learning has made it necessary for you to receive meals for your students either for pick up or delivery, you can email your request to [mealorder@ppcsd.org](mailto:mealorder@ppcsd.org).

Please feel free to contact your school office or my email with any questions you may have.

Stay safe, and be well.

Dr. Martin D. Handler  
Superintendent