



Akron Central School District

In Pursuit of Excellence

*Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools*

December 3, 2020

Dear ACS Parent and Guardians:

As I have previously shared with you, our ability to provide in-person learning to students via the hybrid model is contingent upon administering the required COVID-19 tests to students and staff as well as our ability to maintain appropriate staffing levels. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our current status on each of these variables.

COVID-19 Testing:

- We are prepared and ready to administer the [BinaxNow COVID-19 rapid test](#) beginning Monday, December 7th.
- While in a Yellow Zone, we must be able to test 20% of the in-person population. Parents are asked to fill out the [COVID-19 consent form](#) and indicate if they give consent or decline consent to have their child tested for COVID-19.
- The District has partnered with a local medical provider and has applied for the Limited Service Laboratory designation with the NYSDOH.
- We have a contract with a skilled nursing agency and have an RN and 2 LPN's that are trained to administer the test.
- Parents of students that have consented to be tested will be notified by email if their child has been selected to be tested.
- In order to maintain a controlled and safe environment that meets all social distancing requirements, we must restrict parent access to the testing location to children in grades K-2 only. Information for K-2 parents will be provided in the email.
- Test results will be shared with parents within 24 hours. If any child tests positive, parents will be notified immediately and the child will be accompanied by a school nurse until a parent can pick the child up.

Staffing Levels:

Before the Thanksgiving recess, employee absences due to COVID-19 reached a level where the District was unable to continue in-person learning. Thus, students and staff members, including those that were subject to quarantine, were required to engage in our remote instructional model during the week of November 30-December 4. At this time, the number of instructional and non-instructional staff available for in-person learning has improved and we have reached a point where we can resume the hybrid model on Monday, December 7th. Clearly, this is great news.

We will continue to monitor the infection rates within our community and work closely with the Erie County Department of Health. It has been widely reported that infection rates in our area may continue to rise as a result of social gatherings during the holiday season. One of our greatest priorities is the safety and well-being of our students and staff. I must remind everyone that safety is more than an idea or belief. It is an action. Our

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school buildings have proven to be safe places to learn and work. We have excellent protocols in place and our parents, students and staff deserve tremendous credit for how they have adhered to these guidelines. That said, the ability to remain an in-person learning modality can be compromised if the safety guidelines are not followed at all times, including outside of the school environment. Let's continue to be responsible and safe as we move forward together and try to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you for your continuing support.
Stay safe and stay Akron Strong!

Sincerely,
Patrick D. McCabe