



Huntington Union Free School District

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Dear Huntington Families:

This is a challenging stretch, but I urge you to remain mindful of the fact that the time will come when the pandemic is behind us. Nonetheless, there will be some additional turbulence in the interim. As such, your continued vigilance and support remain critical.

NYS Micro-Cluster Strategy Update & Reminders

As of this moment, there are no Huntington schools flagged as within a designated micro-cluster zone. With that said, the Governor announced this morning that a new series of designations will be issued after the weekend. Again, it has become more difficult to predict which communities are at risk of a designation, since additional criteria have been added to the state's decision-making process (i.e., associated with hospitalizations and hospital capacities).

Regardless and as I have stated previously, we must be prepared for a designation to occur with little notice. Again, schools in a designated zone may remain open if a certain percentage of the in-school population is tested for the virus (20% in yellow and orange; 30% in red). If the results of yellow zone testing reveal a positivity rate lower than the zone's current seven-day positivity rate, testing at a school will no longer be required. (If the school rate is above the seven-day rate, the school must continue bi-weekly testing.) If testing in an orange or red zone reveals 9 or more positive cases in any school (or greater than 3% for a sample size of more than 300), a school must close. Importantly, if the required volume of testing is not completed (regardless of the zone color), a school must close.

We remain in a state of constant preparation for testing. In an effort to streamline, we are still looking to secure consent from as many families as possible in advance. The [ELECTRONIC CONSENT FORM](#) remains active and is included again this week for your use. The [FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS \(FAQ\)](#) and [TALKING POINTS FOR CHILDREN](#) documents are also reattached for your convenience.

It is clear that schools, in general, are not sites of community spread. Even with an increase in the number of cases identified in our schools as of late, we can trace the majority to connections outside of school settings. Only if we detect a potential connection among school cases, or if it is determined (in conjunction with the local health department) that schools might be contributing to community spread, would we consider closing a school or schools in a precautionary manner for a finite time period. This is a particularly important reminder in the context of a post-Thanksgiving uptick in positive cases and with another set of holidays upon us.

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Winter Interscholastic Sports Update

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association has made the decision to indefinitely postpone all high-risk sports until authorization is granted by the Executive. This includes winter basketball and wrestling (all levels). Low and moderate-risk sports are still scheduled for a January start.

Positive COVID Case Reports (12/11)

Earlier today, positive cases were reported for a Southdown student, a Jack Abrams STEM student, two Huntington High School student siblings, and a Huntington High School non-instructional staff member. Upon confirming the reports, the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) was notified. Classroom contact tracing was required for the Southdown student only (all contacts identified and communications made); the other students have been engaged remotely for an extended period.

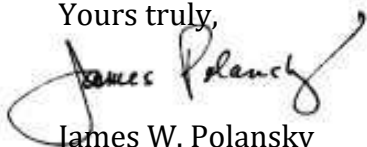
Cohort Schedule for the Week of 12/14

Be reminded of the cohort schedule for the week of Monday, December 14:

- **Grade 6**
 - Cohort 1 in school on Tuesday & Wednesday
 - Cohort 2 in school on Monday, Thursday & Friday
- **Finley M.S. & Huntington H.S. (Grades 7-12)**
 - Cohorts 1/2 in school on Tuesday & Wednesday
 - Cohorts 3/4 in school on Monday, Thursday & Friday

Thank you, once again, for your ongoing understanding and cooperation.

Yours truly,



James W. Polansky
Superintendent of Schools