

HOLLAND PATENT CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Dear Holland Patent Community Members:

Recently, Governor Cuomo issued an Executive Order that the State Department of Health will be responsible for classifying areas with clusters of COVID-19 infections into one of three categories. This process is designed to identify and limit the spread of COVID-19 through the identification of “micro-clusters.” These categories (yellow, orange and red) will each have restrictions of activity.

In the event that our geographic area reaches a 7-day rolling average positivity rate above 3% for 10 days, we will be designated a “yellow zone” based on New York State metrics. As you are aware, the percentage of positive cases in Oneida County has been rapidly increasing, approaching a rolling 7-day average of close to 3%. If a region fits any of the state identified metrics, schools may remain open as long as a certain percentage of in-person students and staff are randomly tested at least once a week.

As a Golden Knight Community, we will continue to strive for in-person learning. We must also acknowledge that there are circumstances beyond our control that could impact our ability to do so, including the positivity rate in our region. It is our intention to keep our school community members’ health a priority, while we navigate the most effective educational plan for scenarios that may occur.

However, if we are designated a “yellow zone”, the District will shift to remote instruction until a testing plan is in place within our region. We are diligently working with local healthcare partners to make arrangements for testing if and when necessary.

Throughout this pandemic, our District has made decisions based on best educational practices and the safety and well-being of our students and staff. Our District will continue to refine our strategies concerning remote learning based on our experiences should the need to close schools emerge. I sincerely thank you for your anticipated cooperation during this challenging time.

Be Safe,

Mr. Jason Evangelist
Superintendent of Schools