

Saranac Central School District

PO Box 8, Saranac, New York 12981 Tel. (518) 565-5600 ~ Fax (518) 565-5617

January 8, 2021

Good Afternoon,

I am reaching out to update our community on our school district's plan for instruction moving forward. I have continued to participate in weekly meetings with our Clinton County Health Department and our local Superintendents. We continue to discover that currently there are no easy answers and that no matter what direction we go there are negative consequences to our decisions. Therefore, I feel obligated to continue to follow the data and the recommendations from our health experts.

I have decided that we will remain under remote instruction for all our students for the next two weeks. During those two weeks I will continue to analyze the data through the weekly meeting with the Clinton County Health Department. My goal will be to return to our hybrid plan on January 25th but that will be dependent on the information I am gathering.

DATA LEADING TO THIS DECISION

- The continued and significant rise in positive COVID-19 cases in our county (1/5 – 96, 1/6 – 72, and 1/7 – 50). We have had several positive cases in our own school community as well as many people currently under quarantine orders.
- CCHD reports that we are only seeing the beginning of the surge caused by celebrations around the 24th and 25th of December. They are still waiting to see the surge from New Years' celebrations.
- CCHD also has been very open and honest in saying that they are overwhelmed by the number of cases and in fact are several days behind in the communication of quarantine orders to individuals required to quarantine. This could easily translate to people entering our buildings that should be under quarantine.
- It was reported that CVPH has entered their "disaster level 1 surge" process. This means that they are extremely concerned about the number of ICU beds available moving forward.
- CCHD has recommended that schools remain under remote instruction for at least the next couple of weeks. This will allow them to analyze the data from a potential and probable New Years' surge.
- I have spoken about the different zones in the past and currently we are not designated any specific zone. It is important to note that the practice of qualifying for these zones continues to change inexplicably. Also, under the practice from a couple of weeks ago we would have been considered a red zone which would have led to an immediate move to remote learning.

Each decision to place the district under fully remote instruction has been heartbreaking to me. As an educator, licensed clinician, and parent I am very aware about the negative impact this model of education can have and has had on our students. These are decisions I do not take lightly but I believe that my best course of action currently is to utilize the data and recommendations from our health experts to lead my decision-making process.

I know that these are very difficult times for everyone for more reasons than one. I am confident that prioritizing everyone's health and safety is of the utmost importance. We can see a glimmer of light at

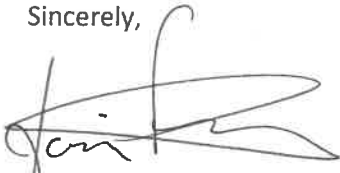
the end of the very long tunnel with the vaccine seemingly on the horizon. This is the time that we must dig deep and work the hardest to do the right things. It is important that we continue to follow the guidelines as illustrated by our health care officials as we are currently seeing the result of those guidelines not being followed over the holiday season. I am also confident that together we can overcome this crisis.

I remain committed to continue to work to return our district to our hybrid model. I will reach out to the community with an update next week and share the information I have gathered.

It is important to note that CVES has also announced their move to remote instruction for the next two weeks. Any Saranac students that attend BOCES or CV-Tech will also be under remote instruction starting Monday through Friday January 22nd. If any of these students would like meals delivered during this time, please contact Isaac Dirolf at (518)565-5705.

I want to thank this entire community once again for your support and cooperation during this time of crisis. I know that I can say with confidence that all Saranac Central School educators want nothing more than a return to in-person instruction. I am hopeful that there are much better days ahead for our students and all of us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Javier Perez', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Javier Perez
Saranac Central School Superintendent