

# Saranac Central School District

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January 20, 2021

Good Afternoon,

I am again reaching out to update our community on our school district's plan for instruction in the next couple of weeks. I have continued to participate in weekly meetings with our Clinton County Health Department and our local Superintendents. We continue to discover that COVID-19 is impacting our school and communities and hindering our ability to open and operate safely. My decisions continue to be guided by the present data and recommendations from our health experts with a focus on the safety of all as we move forward.

Our latest review leads me to the decision of remaining under remote instruction at least through January 29<sup>th</sup>. Our goal is to return to our hybrid plan on February 1<sup>st</sup> for all students.

## DATA LEADING TO THIS DECISION

- We have seen a sharp spike in the number of Saranac students and staff who are either under a quarantine order or isolation order. This directly impacts our ability to safely operate school.
- CCHD reports that we continue to see the effects of the holiday surge. They have reported an additional 180 cases over just the past few days. The cases remain significantly high.
- 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.
- 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 past practice we would have been considered a red zone which would have led to an immediate move to remote learning.

I understand how difficult these decisions can be for many of our students and families. I am confident that prioritizing everyone's health and safety is of the utmost importance.

I also do believe that there might be reason for some cautious optimism. Although the numbers remain significantly high it does seem that they are on the decline. Also, the increased efforts on the vaccine rollout are very encouraging. I do believe that better days are ahead, and I hope they are closer than they seem today.

It is important to note that CVES has also announced that they will remain under remote instruction for an additional week as well. Any Saranac students that attend BOCES or CV-Tech will also remain under remote instruction until Friday January 29th.

If there are any students who are not currently receiving meals and would like to during this time, please contact Isaac Dirolf at (518)565-5705.

Again, I thank you for your patience, understanding, and cooperation with this very difficult situation.

As always please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

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