
Saranac Central School District

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December 5, 2020

Good Afternoon,

This is a follow up to the calls you have received from me over the last two days. As you know by now, we have been informed of a high school teacher and an elementary student who is positive for COVID-19. With these cases it is important to follow the data and facts. So, let me share what I know at this time.

What we know:

- High school teacher is positive for COVID-19. Teacher was last in the building on Friday December 5th.
- 26 high school students and 8 middle school students have been affected by this case and therefore quarantined.
- 2 additional teachers and 2 staff have also been affected and quarantined.
- Saranac Elementary 4th grade student tested positive for COVID-19. Student was last in the building on Tuesday December 1st.
- 19 students have been affected by this case and will be quarantined.
- 2 faculty and potentially 2 staff members have been affected by this case and will be quarantined.
- This student does not ride the bus.
- The measure for who is affected or quarantined is determined by discovering who has been within less than 6ft for more than 10 minutes of the person who has tested positive for COVID-19. Any students or adults who are part of the classroom are automatically quarantined but others that may have come in contact with are filtered through the above-mentioned guidelines.
- The health department determines who is to be quarantined with the information that is given to them by the school.

Our response:

- Immediately coordinated with the Clinton County Health Department to begin contact tracing process with their guidance.
- Entire school community informed of the positive cases.
- Families of the affected students received a separate call from me informing them that their child had been affected.
- Our custodial department immediately began the disinfection process. Cleaning and sanitizing not only the affected classrooms as well as the entire buildings.
- Evaluating the safety for our students, faculty, and staff.
- Planning for how we will proceed.

The Plan:

At this time, we will continue to offer in-person instruction to all our students who have not been affected by either case. Those students, faculty, and staff that were affected will be under quarantine as directed by the health department. Those affected students will participate in remote instruction until their quarantine is complete.

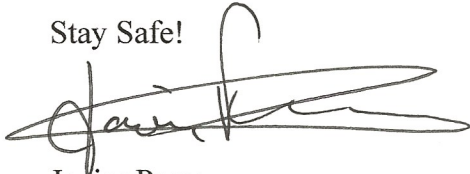
The data has consistently shown that COVID-19 is not being spread in school buildings. We continue to learn how important all the guidelines that we have put into place are. It is increasingly important that we strictly follow the evaluation process prior to sending students to school. Making sure that temperature is taken, and the self-assessment questions are answered. It is very important that any student feeling sick particularly with any COVID-19 symptoms present is kept home and scheduled to see a physician.

Students have done a remarkable job with their mask wearing but I would ask that families continue to reenforce the importance of the masks and that they are worn appropriately. Also, as the guidelines in our state change it is very important that we are all doing our part in following them.

It is important to know that we are nearing the potential to be categorized as a yellow zone. This designation would lead to fully remote for at least a short time period. Also remember that any families that might feel that remote instruction would be a better fit for their child at this time can move to that plan by contacting your child's Principal.

I want to once again thank this entire community for the support you have given our district through this difficult time. I am proud of what we continue to accomplish each day and confident that we can continue to move forward together.

Stay Safe!

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

Javier Perez
Superintendent of Schools