

Email Subject: Holiday Break

November 20, 2020

Dear Oteora Families,

Since October, we have been able to successfully welcome our students back into our buildings. As we navigate through the holidays, with anticipated increased contact and exposure outside of school, we will continue to analyze our data and make smart decisions regarding whether to move to a fully remote model. To do this, we need your help in staying vigilant and practicing healthy habits, following the protocols in place, and ensuring that social contact outside of school and travel remains minimal.

Please note that if an increase in positivity rates were to move our District into a “Yellow Zone,” we would have no choice but to move to a fully remote model for our students for an undetermined amount of time. At this point in time we are not in that situation, but the metrics for determining yellow, orange and red zones can be found here:

https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/MicroCluster_Metrics_10.21.20_FINAL.pdf

If you or someone in your family is directed to [quarantine](#), please respect what you are being asked to do in the interest of public health. Quarantine is used to keep someone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others to stop the spread. People in quarantine need to stay home, separate themselves from others in the home, monitor their health, and follow directions from the local health department.

Please continue to follow all safety guidelines outside of school hours including proper use of face coverings, social distancing, handwashing, avoiding gatherings and travel to states with high positivity rates, and keeping your child home if they are sick. We also remind you to complete the daily health screening form for your child prior to sending them to school.

As we look ahead to the Thanksgiving break, we also ask for your help in making sure everyone celebrates and observes this year’s activities in a way that puts health and safety first.

According to the CDC, [the safest way to celebrate this year](#) is to celebrate with people in your household. Please consider virtual gatherings or other activities that reduce your and your child’s risk of getting the virus. Traveling, sharing food, and attending indoor gatherings outside your household increases your risk – and the risk of spreading COVID-19 within our schools.

As this is an important issue for everyone, it will be a part of the discussion during Tuesday’s Board meeting during Superintendent’s News. The Board of Education and the Administration all take this situation seriously and we will continue to monitor the rate of spread within our community. We are not currently planning to close after Thanksgiving, but if the COVID cases within our community rise, we will be ready to pivot to remote learning in order to keep our community safe. Please keep this in mind as we may need to make decisions with short notice.

Wishing you good health and an enjoyable Thanksgiving Break!

Sincerely,

Victoria McLaren
Superintendent of Schools