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January 21, 2022

Dear Cleveland Hill School Community;

With so many recent changes in isolation and quarantine guidance from state and county health officials, I want to take this opportunity to provide some clarity in regards to how we will be implementing these changes here in Cleveland Hill.

We have been very successful in maintaining a safe environment in our schools throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. For that reason, the New York State and Erie County Departments of Health have given school districts more discretion in our efforts to normalize school and maintain the health, safety and welfare of our students and staff. That said, we are excited to be able to expand opportunities that will keep students in school while still maintaining our established and effective safety procedures.

Below I will outline our quarantine and isolation procedures that will be applied to both students and staff.

Quarantine – Any unvaccinated individual who may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 will be notified by school officials. These students or staff will still be able to attend school by agreeing to participate in our Test to Stay (TTS) program for five days following the potential exposure. Specific details for this program have been shared previously and will be explained in detail by the school when someone is eligible for it. Individuals electing to not participate in the TTS program will be required to quarantine for five days following the potential exposure. Vaccinated and/or boosted individuals identified who may have been exposed are exempt from quarantine recommendations, but should monitor for symptoms.

Isolation – People who are confirmed to have COVID-19 or have symptoms and are waiting for the results of a COVID-19 test need to isolate regardless of their vaccination status. Isolation ends after 5 full days, if the individual is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and other symptoms have improved. They must

continue to wear a well-fitting mask around others at home and in public for 5 additional days after the end of the 5-day isolation period.

We will be expanding our district testing program to include diagnostic testing for the occasions that a child may develop COVID like symptoms here at school. This would allow our nurse to administer a rapid COVID test with parental permission.

I am cautiously optimistic that the light we see ahead is the end of this long tunnel that we have traveled together. Our COVID cases have dropped dramatically in recent days, and very few students are currently in our TTS program or in quarantine.

Our goal is to continue to normalize school for our students. But our top priority of keeping everyone safe remains. We will continue to keep you informed as we progress and further information comes available. I again want to express my sincere appreciation for the incredible support and patience that we have received from you all over the past two years.

Sincerely,

Jon MacSwan
Superintendent