



105 Mapleview Road, Cheektowaga, NY 14225-1599
Phone: 716 836-7200 • Fax: 716 836-0675

Dear Cleveland Hill School Community;

It was so exciting and energizing to see all of our students return to school this morning. We had some traffic congestion particularly at the elementary level attributed to people arriving early for student drop-off and pick-up. We encourage individuals driving kids to not arrive until the designated times, 8:10 for drop-off and 3:00 for pick-up. We thank you for your patience as we work through these challenges.

This past weekend the Erie County Department of Health, our local authority, updated its guidance for schools.

With that understanding, we updated our Opening Plan and posted that document on our website at www.clevehill.org. The key aspects of our opening including the required mitigation strategies, such as masking, physical distancing, contact tracing and testing are still in full effect.

Below are three changes in the requirements made by Erie County that you should be aware of.

Contact Tracing in Cafeterias – *Students may remove their mask during meals as long as they sit 6 feet apart to the extent possible, but no less than three feet, and a seating chart is kept.*

As we reported, we have been able to establish the minimum 3 feet of social distancing. However, the new 6 feet requirement is not attainable, even with utilizing parts of our gymnasium for lunches. This could result in additional contact tracing should a positive case be identified.

Health Screening Questionnaire – *The health screening can be a daily in-person temperature and COVID-19 symptom check or a home health screening questionnaire (Appendix A) which can then be forwarded to the school by hand, electronically, or phone.*

We are in the process of establishing a quick and easy electronic questionnaire that will be sent each morning to parent's/guardian's cell phone or email to confirm that their child has been screened and home. We will be forwarding you further information on this new system in the near future. Until that time, parents should continue or current practice in that you and/or your children are attesting that the screening survey has been completed, which includes a temperature and COVID-19 symptom check. COVID-19 symptoms are listed within the District's Opening Plan.

Returning to School or Work Following a COVID-19-like Illness - ECDOH requires that in order for students or staff to return to school following a COVID-19-like illness, **regardless of vaccination status**, one of the three following criteria must be met:

The county provided further detail in this regard.

- 1- A negative FDA approved NAAT COVID-19 test result is provided to the school either by a parent/guardian or medical care provider. A NAAT test is a Nucleic acid amplification test, such as a polymerase chain reaction or PCR; OR
- 2- There have been at least 10 days since the onset of COVID-19 symptoms; OR
- 3- A Health Care Provider provides a signed note reporting a diagnosis of a known chronic condition.

Please be sure to ask for a NAAT or PCR test. We will not be able to accept an Antigen test.

Due to the volume of potential COVID cases, the District and/or the ECDOH will only be notifying those individuals affected by the positive COVID case through our established contact tracing procedures. District-wide notifications will not be taking place this school year.

These updated mandates are subject to change and maybe altered by the NYSDOH in the near future. Please check the District's website on a regular basis for updates. We thank you again for your continued support, cooperation and patience.

Thank you!

Mr. Jon MacSwan
Superintendent