



Akron Central School District

In Pursuit of Excellence

Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools

January 25, 2022

Dear Akron Central School District Families,

Last week, the New York State Department of Health issued [updated COVID-19 Guidance](#) to schools that, among other things, clarified the District's responsibility to notify parents if we believe a student was exposed to a positive individual in a school setting. However, under this new guidance, the school is no longer required to do contact tracing on behalf of the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH).

For nearly two years, our administrators and nurses have conducted case investigations anytime we became aware that a person with COVID-19 was in our schools. In that time, we have developed a sound approach to determining who may have had direct exposure to a positive individual and we will apply that experience going forward to notify those who require it. Therefore, if we determine that a student has been exposed to a positive individual in a school setting, we will continue to notify the parent directly.

In accordance with NYSDOH guidance, vaccinated/asymptomatic children can remain in school while they are symptom-free. Unvaccinated/asymptomatic children may also remain in school under the Test to Stay program. Information on the Test to Stay program, including the [parent consent form](#), can be found on the [ACS Response to COVID-19](#) webpage.

As required, we will continue to report positive cases to the ECDOH and the [NYS COVID-19 Report Card](#) as well as post that information on the [ACS COVID-19 Dashboard](#). For Erie County residents only: if your child tests positive on an at-home COVID-19 Rapid Antigen test, you should notify the school nurse and submit the results to the [ECDOH Positive COVID-19 Home Test Reporting Form](#).

It is also worth noting that this shift in perspective by the NYSDOH seems to reflect that we are hopefully starting to move past the crisis stage of the pandemic and that we might begin the process of normalizing the school experience. As cases decline in WNY, we anticipate that state and local health departments will continue to update their guidance for schools. We look forward to more steps in this direction soon.

Thank you again for the tremendous support and patience that you have shown throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Patrick D. McCabe