December 30, 2021

Dear North East Family,

As a reminder, our number one goal is to keep our students and staff safe and to keep our buildings open. After holiday break, the North East School District will continue to follow our district Health and Safety Plan for indoor masking which includes masking while Erie County COVID-19 transmission rates are in substantial or high. Masking will be required in all North East schools by all students, employees, and visitors in the New Year. Additionally, the Federal masking requirement for public transportation is still in effect. Students are required to wear masks on school buses and any school vehicle for all transportation activities and events.

The Erie County Department of Health has released new quarantine guidelines. We will be transitioning to MOST of these new quarantine guidelines; however, please note, since strict masking is required for exposures from day six through day ten from last exposure, participation in extra-curricular and athletics will continue to be ten days, returning on day eleven to the activity. We have included the ECDOH Chart as reference below. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kiersten Lawrence at klawrence@nesd1.org or myself at mhartzell@nesd1.org.

We will also begin a pilot Test to Stay program provided by the State for students and staff. Please be patient as we navigate this new resource in the North East School District. Please go to the website link below to sign an electronic consent form for your child. You MUST fill out one for each building that your child attends- you must use the unique code associated with the school building for registration (it took me less than a minute to register my child). This will provide our nurses with the option of providing a rapid test for your child to stay in school if they have “flu-like” symptoms. In addition to the on-line consent, our nurses will contact parents for a verbal consent prior to conducting ANY rapid testing. We must have both the on-line consent and the verbal permission (verbal when called) for participation in this program. Please note that the North East School District IS NOT and WILL NOT be participating in the pooled portion of the test to stay program, ONLY the rapid antigen testing portion listed on the on-line consent form. Go to the district website, select GOLD update tab, select Test to Stay under COVID Quick Links

https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent

• Earle C. Davis Primary School: NBDJBK
• Intermediate Elementary School: J8E4R5
• North East Middle School: 2C56MY
• North East High School: 4HEB9D

“The Mission of the North East School District is to challenge, empower, and engage all students to develop and achieve personal and career aspirations, to pursue lifelong learning, and to be responsible and accountable citizens in a dynamic world.”
The Erie County Department of Health Guidelines are also uploaded onto the district website at nesd1.org, select the GOLD Update tab.

We sincerely appreciate your ongoing support and patience as we navigate through these new changes and the opportunity of Test to Stay.

Finally, please have a plan in place in the event we need to transition to remote learning. We are seeing a significant increase in COVID case in our students and staff. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kiersten Lawrence at klawrence@nesd1.org or myself at mhartzell@nesd1.org.

Happy New Year and we will see our children back on Monday, January 3, 2022!

Dr. Michele S. Hartzell, Superintendent

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