



CHEEKTOWAGA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

"It's All About the Learning"

Mr. Steven L. Wright
Superintendent of
Schools

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Mrs. Carol Kiripolsky
Mr. Paul A. Nazzarett, Jr.
Mr. Edward W. Schaefer
Mr. Derrick C. Warburton

September 29, 2021

Dear Cheektowaga Central School District Families,

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, you have done your part in assisting us to keep our schools as well as learning environments safe. You have followed mask mandates, social distancing requirements, COVID 19 protocols and have to the best of your ability, made responsible decisions to stay home or keep your child home, if you were ill. We have accomplished a lot together over this past year, including the return to full in person learning September 8. We have more work to accomplish together, in order to ensure the health and safety of all who learn and work within the Cheektowaga CSD.

Our district will be participating in the Erie County Department of Health's (ECDOH) **Proximal and Surveillance Testing Program**. Surveillance testing is not new to our district but the addition of testing, test collection and the addition of proximal testing - is new.

- **Voluntary Surveillance Testing** is part of a layered "mitigation strategy" designed to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. This testing program will test approximately 10% of those for whom consent has been received weekly. Participation in this program is strongly encouraged and completely voluntary. It involves a self-collected oral swab which is done just inside of the person's cheek. This will be done with a healthcare professional, provided to the district by the Erie County Department of Health.
- **Proximal Testing is also voluntary** and is for those who are in the same airspace as an infected individual but is for those who are not considered to be a close contact. This type of contact is considered "proximal". Proximal contacts are not subject to quarantine, unless they are symptomatic.

Fully vaccinated individuals can participate in both types of testing and we urge you to consider having your child or children participate in these programs. We are urging your participation in this voluntary program in an effort to continue in-person learning experiences, while ensuring the safety of students, faculty and staff by reducing the risks of COVID-19 disease transmission in the school setting.

If you agree to have your child or children participate, we ask that you follow these steps:

1. Visit www.erie.gov/schooltesting
2. Watch the ECDOH Program Overview Presentation
3. Watch the Quadrant Program Registration Video (Quadrant is the laboratory we are partnering with via ECDOH to process the samples collected)
4. Complete and submit the ECDOH Program Consent Form
5. Register with and complete the Quadrant Program Consent Form

If you have any questions, you are encouraged to contact the ECDOH School Team at: (716) 858-1918.

Thank you for your continued partnership in education.

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