

# Red Hook Central School District

November 15, 2020

## Dear Red Hook Central School District Community:

Today the Red Hook Central School District received notification of a NEW positive COVID-19 test for a **student at Red Hook High School**. As a result, the individual who tested positive is currently isolated, and due to federal health privacy laws, further information about their Identity or condition cannot be released. We are working collaboratively with the Dutchess County Department of Health, and as always, the safety of our students and staff is our highest priority.

Any students and staff who were exposed to the individual have been contacted separately by Administration and will be mandated to quarantine for 14 days from the last exposure date. **Due to mandated quarantine measures with staff and teachers from this incident and the previous positive high school case this past week, we have significant coverage issues at the high school with staff and teachers. Therefore, the Red Hook High School will be on remote learning to ensure the best continuity of education for our students until November 24<sup>th</sup>, returning after Thanksgiving break on November 30<sup>th</sup>.** We recognize that abrupt changes in schedules are difficult for both students and families and appreciate your understanding. Building administration will follow up with additional information on remote learning.

Parents/Guardians may receive a call from a contact tracer. For such calls, your caller ID may read New York State Contact Tracing or have a phone number with a '518' area code. Please promptly answer these calls. Please provide the contact tracers with the information that they need. All identities and personal information will be kept confidential and providing this information will protect everyone.

**ALL other students will resume their hybrid schedule at Mill Road Primary, Mill Road Intermediate, and Linden Avenue Middle School on Monday, November 16, UNLESS their parents/guardians were contacted by school personnel.**

Yesterday, we received updated guidance on "yellow zones" from The New York State Department of Health. New York State has designated geographic areas into tiers and provided guidance on zones (red, orange and yellow). Regions can be designated as a yellow precautionary zone due to viral spread. It is measured by an increase in new cases, positivity rate, hospital admission and other factors.

**Red Hook Central School District is not yet designated in the yellow**

**zone.** *If we become designated in the “yellow zone”, we must test 20% in-person students, faculty and staff over the two-week period immediately following the announcement of yellow zone designation. If the results of the testing reveal that the positivity rate among the 20% of those tested is lower than the yellow zone’s current 7-day positivity rate, testing at that school will no longer be required to continue. A positivity rate in a school that is lower than in the yellow zone is a sufficient demonstration that in-person instruction is not a significant driver of local viral spread. The current positivity rate for zones can be found at, <https://forward.ny.gov/percentage-positive-results-county-dashboard>. However, if the results of the testing over the first two weeks reveal that the positivity rate among in-person student, staff and faculty is higher than the Yellow Zone’s current 7-day positivity rate, the school will be required to continue to test 20% of the in-person population on a bi-weekly basis.*

We are meeting this week with the Dutchess County Department of Health to review this process. I will communicate with families as information is provided to the district.

Thank you for understanding as we navigate each new situation and updated information. If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse or building administration.

Respectfully,

Janet Warden  
Superintendent