

EDINBURG COMMON SCHOOL

“A Great Place to Grow and Learn”

4 Johnson Road
Edinburg, N.Y. 12134
(518) 863-8412
ecs1@edinburgcs.org

Administrative Office:

Superintendent, Michelle Ellis
Business Manager, Sandy Moore
Data Coordinator, Meaghan Cherry
COVID-19 Coordinator, Karen VanAlstyne

Board of Trustees:

President, Michael Evans
Vice President, Angela Ludwig
Board Member, James Lowerre

December 14, 2020

Dear Edinburg Common School Teachers, Staff, and Families,

Please note: Edinburg Common School District **has not been designated as a "yellow zone"**.

We want to thank our families, teachers, and staff for being so supportive under these challenging times. We know how difficult this is to deal with and share the same thoughts, feelings and concerns that you do. The District is committed to remaining open for in-person instruction with the health and safety of our students and staff as our top priority.

As you know, [Governor Cuomo's Micro Cluster Strategy](#) has given schools the directive to test within districts should they fall into a “yellow, orange, or red zone”. When a region moves to the “Yellow Zone” under Governor Cuomo’s Micro-Cluster Strategy, schools are required to test 20% of in-person students and staff for COVID-19 each week to remain open for in-person instruction. 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 school will no longer be required to continue and school for in-person instruction can continue.

School districts throughout New York State are identifying a plan that works best for their school community. In preparations for this event, Edinburg Common School District **will be** prepared to test 20% of in-person students and staff if our school is designated as a “yellow zone” in order to continue offering in-person instruction. The District has partnered with Adirondack Health & Wellness to conduct the COVID-19 Rapid Test onsite during the school day. Adirondack Health and Wellness would arrive on-site providing PPE, licensed and trained staff to administer the test, and disposing of the tests accordingly. The Covid-19 tests have been ordered and are supplied free of charge to school districts by the New York State Department of Health.

To help us prepare for testing should our area be designated as a “yellow zone”, please review the [school-based testing information and frequently asked questions](#) (attached) and consider giving consent for school-based COVID-19 testing by filling out the [Consent for Student COVID-19 Testing Form](#) by Wednesday, December 23, 2020. If you consent, your child may be randomly selected to receive a free COVID-19 Rapid Test if and only if we have been identified in a “yellow zone”.

Testing is not mandatory, and no one will be excluded from school because they choose not to be tested. However, if we do not receive consent from at least 20% of students and staff, we would likely be forced to shift to fully online instruction if we were identified in a “zone”.

We will keep you informed of any developments and plans for COVID-19 testing at our schools should our district be designated as a “yellow zone”. In the meantime, please continue to follow all health and safety precautions in your daily activities to help stop the spread of COVID-19.

Also, please watch an informative video from Adirondack Health and Wellness as a family to better understand the testing process.

<https://www.adkhw.com/covid-video>

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or the school nurse at 518-863-8412.

Sincerely,

Michelle L. Ellis

Superintendent