

South Lewis Central School District

Mr. Douglas Premo, Superintendent

4264 East Rd
PO Box 10
Turin, NY 13473
315-348-2500
Fax: 315-348-2510
www.southlewis.org

December 10, 2020

Dear South Lewis School Community:

I hope this message finds you well as we continue to see more and more people affected by COVID-19 within our school and surrounding community. As you are aware, a few weeks ago we made the decision to continue with in-person instruction despite considerations to close through the holidays into mid-January. While we expected to see positivity rates of COVID-19 within our school and community, we also knew that schools have been extremely safe and not a location of spread or mass exposure. However, we could not have predicted the way in which quarantine requirements as a result of exposure to COVID-19 would decimate our school populations.

To date we continue to see daily decreases in both student and staff attendance due to quarantines. It has become obvious that the community positivity rates will continue to increase, causing further mass quarantines of our students and staff. The day-to-day process of not knowing what to expect is stressful on students, parents and our staff.

Additionally, today we learned of new positive COVID-19 cases connected to the District. With these new positives, coupled with the cumulative and on-going effects of other cases both connected and separate from our schools, we are unable to continue in-person instruction. Therefore, the entire district will go to a remote learning model effective immediately. Please see the specific notes below regarding the remote only schedule:

- For Friday, December 11th Glenfield Elementary and the Middle/High School will be fully remote for only Cohort B or Day 2-4-6 students. Port Leyden Elementary will continue with both Cohort A and B being remote.
- Starting on Monday, December 14th all schools will be fully remote for both Cohort A and B each day.
- Remote learning will continue through at least Friday, January 8th.

With the exception of tomorrow, students will attend school remotely each day for both Cohort A and Cohort B. This is different from the every other day model that is in place for in-person instruction. Remote learning schedules have previously been provided via hard copies given to students, mailings sent home and/or are in each teacher's communication platform such as Google Classroom and/or Class Dojo that students/parents have access to.

Meal services will continue for those families who wish to have them provided via a sign-up system. While we are working out the final details, you can expect to pick up a week's worth of meals at the school on a designated time and day each week. Meals will not be delivered to homes. A separate communication will be sent to families in the near future outlining how meal services will operate during the closure period.

For these new positive cases, District officials are working with Public Health and reviewing the close and proximate contacts for the purpose of the contact tracing process. Any individuals at-risk for exposure will be contacted by Public Health and will likely be quarantined. If you are contacted by Public Health, please follow any guidelines and directions provided.

We hope you understand that due to privacy laws, we cannot provide any additional information about the individual who tested positive or about those that may have been exposed. We appreciate your patience and flexibility while we work to protect the health, welfare and safety of our students and staff while complying with any government orders and guidance.

This decision did not come lightly. We believe the best education we can provide our students is through in-person instruction. We also are sympathetic and recognize the personal challenges this creates for all within our school community. Over the next few weeks, in collaboration with our community partners at Lewis County Public Health, the Lewis County Health System and Lewis County government, we will continue to monitor the situation. The health, safety, and well-being of our faculty and staff, students and community will continue to be at the forefront of every decision we make.

Please be assured that we are doing everything in our power to continue to provide academic opportunities and minimize disruption to our students, families and staff during this unprecedented situation. As always, thank you for your patience, understanding and flexibility. On behalf of our entire school community, please continue to be safe, smart and supportive of each other. We are hopeful that you are able to make the best of these challenging times and have an enjoyable holiday season.

Sincerely,



Douglas Premo
Superintendent of Schools