



SOUTH SENECA

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Telephone Number: 607-869-9636 /// 7263 South Main Street, Ovid, NY 14521 /// Fax Number: 607-869-2529

Stephen J. Parker Zielinski /// Superintendent of Schools /// szielinski@southseneca.org

December 20, 2020

On Saturday South Seneca received information from the Seneca County Health Department that two of our elementary school students had tested positive for COVID-19. The two students are members of two different grade levels, and last attended in-person on Tuesday, December 15.

As with all cases in our school community, we are collaborating with the Health Department to facilitate contact tracing and any necessary quarantines. We also collaborate with the Department to make determinations about any closures that might be appropriate. Anyone who is to complete required steps as a result of potential exposure is being contacted by the Health Department or by the school district for instructions.

In this case, because of the timing of the onset of symptoms, contact tracing has resulted in a very large number of quarantines for both students and staff in Interlaken. ***Out of an abundance of caution, the Elementary School will move to a fully remote model of instruction for the three days leading up to our break: Monday, December 21 through Wednesday, December 23. The Middle-High School was not impacted in this case, and will continue as planned with our hybrid model this week.*** We will revisit our status over the next several days, and will communicate any further adjustments to our school calendar as they are decided. On Monday, the district will work to distribute Chromebooks to elementary students as needed for participation in classes.

We know the community understands that personal identifying information about those testing positive is protected under privacy laws, so we are unable to share those particular details.

We join all our colleagues, both in the school setting and out, to continue to urge everyone to take the risks associated with the pandemic seriously, and to do all you can to minimize your own chances of exposure to the virus. This includes diligent wearing of face coverings in public spaces, attention to social distancing, and good regular hand hygiene, along with the use of caution when planning any holiday travel or gatherings.

Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation,

Stephen Parker Zielinski
Superintendent