



SOUTH SENECA

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Just two days before our holiday break, we at South Seneca now have over 80 members of our staff and student population in mandatory quarantines as a result of contact tracing related to our three recent cases. In addition to these, we are informed of nearly thirty others in the school community who are now COVID-positive themselves, or quarantined as a result of exposure to someone who is positive.

As we have been communicating since before Thanksgiving, when groups of staff and students are forced to quarantine at home for two weeks, it creates a substantial disruption to each of their own lives, and to the school program. Those in quarantine, again, have broken no rules, and have only been caught up in the tracing process. They go into quarantine to contain potential spread, which is necessary, but disheartening and inconvenient.

We know from all evidence that once again, there is a reasonable concern that those numbers may spike in the period immediately following the holidays. As a precautionary measure designed to prevent potential large numbers of quarantines into the new year, ***South Seneca will shift to a temporary fully remote model for instruction in the week after New Year's Day, January 4 through January 8.***

Students should prepare for the week as a school week, and not as an extension of the vacation. Teachers will be in touch to arrange a class schedule. Contrary to the week we went remote after Thanksgiving, there is still a possibility for us to operate small groups of organized activities, such as the highly controlled athletic workouts, etc. Coaches will be in touch with athletes about those arrangements.

We understand that being fully remote can pose a burden on working families, and we encourage those with concerns to reach out to our offices for help. This measure is intended to prevent an even longer burden, as families in quarantine have communicated to us. If the numbers of positive cases and widespread quarantines were to reach a critical threshold, the shift to remote learning could keep us out of the buildings for weeks at a time, which is what we'd like to avoid.

We urge our community to continue to follow all guidelines for staying safe, and we wish full recovery for those having already tested positive.

Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation,

Stephen Parker Zielinski
Superintendent