



# TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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**TIMOTHY A. OLDENBURG, Ed.D.**  
**SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

September 24, 2021

Dear Tonawanda City School District Families:

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as our district continues to deliver in-person instruction and support to our students each day. The new and continued mandates and protocols require that our district and families work together as we progress through the 2021-2022 school year.

Please be reminded or note:

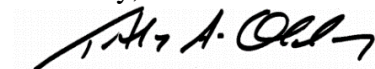
- Our nurse's offices are experiencing a high volume of students that are arriving to school with symptoms associated with a potential case of COVID-19. **PLEASE be reminded that it is the parent's responsibility to attest to the health and ability of their children to arrive to and attend school each day without presenting symptoms of COVID-19.** We understand the complications that are caused by children staying home or being required to quarantine. However, please consider all of us that learn or work in the school buildings in our district as you complete the daily health screening form.
- If your child(ren) are presenting symptoms of COVID, **PLEASE keep them home** and follow the information and protocols below.
- The Erie County Department of Health is encouraging school districts to help in communicating to parents how their children can return to school following COVID-19-like illness:
  - Individuals experiencing any of the following symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, must **NOT** attend school:
    - Fever (100.4 degrees or higher), Cough, Shortness of breath, Chills, Repeated shaking with chills, Muscle pain, Headache, Sore throat, New loss of taste or smell, Diarrhea
    - Some people can have severe complications.
    - CDC believes at this time that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus.
  - If your child(ren) has experienced any of these COVID-like symptoms, regardless of vaccination status, **ONE** of the following criteria must be met to return to school:

1. A negative FDA approved NAAT COVID-19 test result is provided to the school either by a parent/guardian **or** medical care provider. A NAAT test is a Nucleic Acid Amplification Test, such as a polymerase chain reaction or PCR; in this instance, a doctor's note is not required. In addition, the student must be fever free for at least 24 hours and other symptoms improving; **OR**
  2. There have been at least 10 days since the onset of COVID-19 symptoms. In this instance, a doctor's note is not required; **OR**
  3. A Health Care Provider provides a signed note reporting a diagnosis of a known chronic condition with unchanged symptoms, or a confirmed acute illness (laboratory-confirmed influenza, strep-throat) and COVID-19 is not suspected. Such individuals may return to school according to the usual guidelines for that diagnosis.
- The NYSDOH requires that routine COVID-19 testing for students and staff is offered by each school district. Our district is operationalizing this requirement to offer testing to students and staff that provide consent and are interested in this testing service. **Our district is sending out a brief survey to better understand the demand for this testing opportunity.** You can view and complete this interest survey [HERE](#). This survey will expire on Monday, September 27. We will need to schedule support from a Registered Nurse and order related testing supplies to begin this requirement in our district.
  - Beginning on Monday, September 27, our district will release and post a COVID dashboard on our website. This dashboard will be used to share real-time information regarding positive COVID cases in each building. **This dashboard will replace the letters that are shared with our families and staff when a positive case is reported.** This new dashboard can be found by clicking [HERE](#) (beginning Monday, September 27).

I appreciate your support and cooperation regarding these items. I understand the challenge and added responsibility that this NYSDOH requirement imposes on our schools. As a district, we are working hard to create and maintain an educational and supportive environment for our students to engage in their education in a fully operational school district.

Please continue to take necessary precautions and continue with recommended healthy actions to prevent the potential spread of COVID-19 in your homes and in our schools. Go Warriors!

Sincerely,



Timothy A. Oldenburg, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools