



# TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

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September 25, 2020

Dear Tonawanda City School District Families:

Our district has completed the third week of student instruction in the hybrid and Remote Warrior program. Our support staff, instructional staff, and administrators have done an excellent job in delivering instruction, support, and services to our students under these circumstances.

We acknowledge the challenges and hardships that our current model of public education places on all of us. Our hope is that the future will provide opportunities to expand our educational program, increase student attendance, and continue to deliver the supports and services at the highest level. When the Governor adjusts the current restrictions and limitations, our district will be prepared to modify our programming. To accomplish this we will need to continue to operate in a safe and healthy manner in our schools and in our community.

In the meantime, it is critically important that parents, students, and staff consistently and correctly adhere to the daily self-screening questionnaire PRIOR to entering any school building, especially as it relates to potential COVID-19 symptoms. Parents and students need to clearly understand that arriving to school with COVID-19 symptoms OR after taking fever and symptom-reducing medication is a threat to our safe and healthy environment in the school district. Please continue to talk with your child(ren) each morning regarding their current health.

If your child exhibits COVID-19 symptoms, please keep him/her home from school. Please call the school to announce the absence by leaving the student name, teacher, and reason for absence. No student should be sent to school with a fever or after taking fever/symptom-reducing medication. According to the Erie County Department of Health website, COVID-19 symptoms include, but are not limited to, fever (100.4 degrees or higher), cough, chills, shortness of breath, headache, sore throat, and new loss of taste or smell. Although these symptoms may align with other common illnesses during this time of the year, without notification from a physician stating these symptoms are due to a diagnosis other than COVID-19 or a negative COVID-19 test result, our staff has no way to determine the definite reason for these symptoms.

When a child is sent home from school by the nurse with COVID-19 symptoms it is required that the student be seen by a physician and receive documentation that they have a diagnosis other than COVID-19 OR present a negative COVID-19 test result prior to being readmitted to school. After a student is sent home with COVID-19 symptoms, the building operations and efficiencies are impacted as we begin significant protocols and procedures to sanitize, protect, and maintain a

safe environment for all others. It is very important that we all understand the magnitude of our shared responsibilities in safely interacting with and attending school together.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership with our district. Please contact your building principal for additional information or to answer any questions that you may have. Go Warriors!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy A. Oldenburg". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and "O".

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