

## Skaneateles Central School District

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## Dear Skaneateles family,

Thank you for your flexibility and understanding as we shift to remote learning today. We know the impact these decisions have on our families and we do not take these decisions lightly. We will always act in the interest of safety and strive to communicate as quickly and efficiently as possible so our families have time to plan. Our protocol is to first inform our Administration and Board of Education, followed by our faculty and staff and then our parents and families. This typically happens within minutes but our apologies if communication was at all out of sequence yesterday.

Given concerns about our local infection rate and in partnership with the Onondaga County Department of Health, we are pleased to announce COVID-19 testing to be made available to faculty, staff, and students on Wednesday 12/9/2020. All testing will be conducted in the High School Commons area and will be at no cost to the district, staff members, or families.

- Testing for faculty and staff will be available at 8:00 Wednesday 12/9/2020 on a first come first serve basis
- Testing for students will be available at 9:30 on Wednesday 12/9/2020 also on a first come first serve
- Use the following link to register for testing. <a href="https://covid19.ongov.net/appointments/school-registration-form/">https://covid19.ongov.net/appointments/school-registration-form/</a>

To address COVID-19 hot spots, the state implemented an initiative that divides clusters into three categories: the cluster itself (red zone), a warning zone (orange zone) and a precautionary zone (yellow zone). A yellow zone designation requires the following actions on the part of the schools within the zone:

- To continue in-person instruction, the school must test 20 percent of its in-person students and staff members within a two-week period.
- Testing is voluntary, and only those students whose parents or guardians have pre-registered them for the test will be allowed to participate. Parents and guardians who pre-register their child will be presumed to have granted their consent for the test.
- If the school does not test 20 percent of its staff and in-person students, the school must shift to remote instruction for all students until the state removes the zone designation.

<sup>\*</sup>When registering, please disregard registration times as all testing will be first come first serve.

To everyone in our school community, thank you for your continued vigilance and if this past week taught us anything it is how vulnerable our school system is to community infection. On behalf of the faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Education, we ask for an increased sense of caution throughout our entire school community. Our ability to provide in-person education depends on all of us working together. I wish you all a safe and relaxing weekend.

Stronger together,

Eric Knuth

**Superintendent of Schools**