



January 5, 2021

Dear New Lebanon Families,

I would like to thank you all for the continued support that you have shown during the many changes that have occurred this year. As a District, we are committed to doing everything we can in order to offer in-person instruction in a safe and responsible manner.

Recently we shared information about Governor Cuomo's Micro Cluster Strategy regarding color-coded zones. On Monday, January 4, he stated that schools in counties that have a positivity rate of 9% or higher will need to test 20% of in-person students and staff in order to remain open. The district plans to test a couple children a day (whose parent gave consent) in their school's nurses office to meet this mandate.

To help us prepare for testing, please review the [School-Based Testing Information and Frequently Asked Questions](#) on our website and consider giving consent for school-based COVID-19 testing by filling out the Consent for Student COVID-19 Testing Form by 1/11/2021. This consent form will be sent to your email on the afternoon of 1/5/2021. If you consent, your child may be randomly selected to receive a free COVID-19 Rapid Test. The district will give you notice if your child was randomly chosen to test through email. You will also be contacted if your child tested positive for COVID-19. A video-demonstration of the test can be viewed [here](#). Students who are learning 100% virtually do not need to fill out this form. Please note that these tests are non-invasive and are not the deep-swab procedures performed at medical facilities.

As infection rates around the state rise, we should be prepared for the eventual likelihood of testing. Testing is not mandatory for students; however, if we do not receive consent from at least 20%, we would likely be forced to shift to full remote instruction for students in grades K-12. Random testing will occur in each school building.

We will keep you informed of any developments and plans for state-mandated COVID-19 testing at our schools. Please remember to continue to follow all health and safety precautions to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Sincerely,
Andrew Kourt
New Lebanon Superintendent