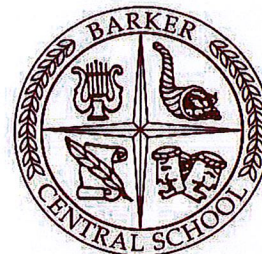


Barker Central School

1628 QUAKER ROAD, BARKER, NEW YORK 14012-0328

Fax 716.795.3394



Jacob L. Reimer

Superintendent of Schools

716.795.3832

jreimer@barkerksd.net

11/24/2020

Dear Barker Learning Community,

As you may know, many Districts in Erie County were recently placed in a yellow zone per Governor Cuomo's Micro-Custer strategy response plan to the Covid-19 pandemic. While the Barker Central School District is not currently in a yellow zone, we are anticipating this happening in the near future if the current positivity rate trends in our area continue. As such, we are getting information out to our community to be ahead of this possibility and prepare us to continue offering in-person instruction if we are placed in a yellow zone.

Since my last communication related to the potential placement in a yellow zone, the requirements for the District to continue providing in-person instruction have changed slightly. Under the current requirements, within two weeks of being placed in a yellow zone, the District must randomly test at least 20% of our students and staff for Covid-19. If we find that the results show our positivity rate to be above the current 7-day positivity rate in our area at the time of testing, we will then be required to continue testing 20% of our students and staff every two weeks. If our testing shows the positivity rate to be lower than the current 7-day positivity rate in our area at the time of testing, we will no longer be required to test our students and staff.

Again, for us to continue providing in-person instruction, we must have at least 20% of our in-person students and staff participate in this random testing over the two weeks after we are placed in a yellow zone. Based on our current numbers, this means we need to test at least 132 people to meet our 20% threshold. In order to meet this requirement as efficiently as possible, we have partnered with our school physician and have been approved by New York State to be able to test staff and students on District premises.

As such, we are asking willing families to please complete the active consent form for your children to be tested at school and return it to the school nurse as soon as possible. Copies of the consent form can be found on the District website and will also be sent home upon request. It is imperative for families to complete the consent form and have their students tested as soon as possible if we are placed in a yellow zone. **If we do not meet the 20% threshold, the District will be forced to go fully remote until we are able to test 20% of our student and staff population.**

Please know that our school nurse will administer each test per the protocol outlined on the district webpage. To help you better understand the test, please see the link to a video on the District web page that shows exactly how this test is administered.

As always, our goal is to continue providing the best possible instruction to our students in person. We thank you in advance for your continued assistance during these trying times.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Reimer".

Jacob Reimer

Superintendent of Schools

Barker Central School District