



Peru Central School District

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Dr. Thomas Palmer
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12/9/20

Dear Peru School Community,

I applaud our school community on your resilience and persistence as you continue to send your children to school. We thank you for the confidence you have in our district. We continue to follow the Department of Health guidance for safe practices in school. Staff and students have been very diligent in meeting those best practices.

There are a few things I would like to share with our community that I think are vital as we move forward during this pandemic:

Testing:

Test results are shared with the community on a daily and weekly basis on the number of positive cases of COVID-19, locally, state and nationally. What does this mean to Peru Central School District? In October, 2020, New York State came out with a document “Micro-Cluster” Strategies. Basically, it was designed to respond to the micro-clusters of infected areas with COVID-19 versus closing the entire state when only a small area was infected. This was learned from earlier in the summer when the entire state was shut down, regardless of where the outbreaks were. The state had learned from that experience and now the goal was to limit COVID-19 spread in a defined geographic area and by doing so prevent broader viral transmission that would result in widespread economic shutdowns. You may hear reference to “Red, Orange and Yellow” zones as COVID-19 spreads in certain regions throughout New York State. Clinton County is identified as Tier 3 based on the qualifiers that are identified by the State. (You may also find this document on our website under COVID).

If we reach and sustain within the yellow zone for a specific number of days, we would then have to test 20% of our students and staff that are classified as in person setting. We would rotate the testing of students and staff. We will be sending out a survey asking whether you will be allowing your child to be tested if we were in the yellow zone. We are working on the testing plan and it will be shared with the public early next week. Your participation is greatly needed in this exercise so we have a better understanding as we move forward with our plans. **THIS IS ONLY PRELIMINARY; WE ARE BEING PROACTIVE BEFORE ANYTHING WILL OCCUR, WE ARE NOT TESTING AT THIS TIME.**

Track Reopening:

Starting Monday, December 14, the District will be reopening the track for community use in the evenings. We will be turning on the lights from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday. These protocols must be followed in order for the track to remain open:

- Wearing of Mask at all times
- Keep Social Distancing (6 feet apart) while walking or running on the track (Family members in the same house do not have to maintain the 6 feet social distancing with family members).
- A good rule to follow is to use lanes 1,4 and 8 to maintain the proper distancing while exercising.
- If you are sick or show the following symptoms: **STAY HOME**
 - a. Fever (100.0 F or more)
 - b. Feel feverish or have chills
 - c. Cough
 - d. Loss of taste or smell
 - e. Fatigue/feeling of tiredness
 - f. Sore throat
 - g. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - h. Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
 - i. Muscle pain or body aches
 - j. Headache
 - k. Nasal congestion/ runny nose

Please follow all safety protocols so our community can use the facility. At this time, there are no restrooms available.

Academics:

We understand the difficulty of the hybrid model and 5-day remote instructional model versus a five day per week in school model. At this time with the maintenance of 6' social distancing and mask wearing, the district is unable to have our entire student population on campus in a safe way. Our square footage for our classrooms versus the square footage needed for each desk limits our capacity to 11 or 12 students per classroom. We've had multiple conversations with our health department on guidance and how best to serve our students in the safest environment. We will continue to monitor and include our health department in making the best decisions for our students, staff, and greater community.

Winter Sports Update:

Some of our winter sports have begun or are able to begin. We have boys' and girls' bowling, indoor track and boys' swimming are available for our students at this time. There is a pause on basketball, wrestling and competitive cheer, and boys' and girls' track no earlier than January 4th and when the State officials allows us to begin. We will continue to keep you informed as we learn more.

Wishing you and your family a happy holiday,

Thomas Palmer Ed.D.