



## Otto-Eldred School District

143 R.L. Sweitzer Drive, Duke Center, PA 16729

(814) 817-1380 opt. 3 Fax (814) 966-3911

Matthew D. Splain, Superintendent

Jodi L. Flexman, Business Manager

Lindsay A. Burns, Director Pupil Services & Spec. Ed.

### Otto-Eldred Elementary School

5 N. Bennett St, Eldred, PA 16731

(814) 817-1380 opt. 1

Fax (814) 225-4917

Nichole M. Garthwaite, Principal

Kim S. Alfieri, School Counselor

### Otto-Eldred Junior Senior High School

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Kaci L. Daniels, Principal

Colleen E. Storer, School Counselor

October 4, 2021

Dear Otto-Eldred Community,

Since Monday, September 27, we received confirmation of six new positive student cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the Otto-Eldred Junior Senior High School and two new cases in the Otto-Eldred Elementary School. In total, we are tracking 8 cases between buildings. Cleaning and disinfecting of the exposed location have been completed and the individuals are self-isolating at home.

Due to the consistent masking practices and through application of CDC guidelines, no one was identified as a close contact. Several layers of preventative efforts are in place in all classrooms to reduce the opportunity for COVID-19 to spread within our school buildings. While we cannot be certain that any cases are connected, we want to be sure our community that our staff and students are doing a great job supporting district efforts to battle COVID and keep our students in school.

Adherence to the PA DOH Mask Order has prevented numerous students and staff from having to quarantine from just the cases identified this week. We are trying to provide students the most normal school experience possible this year. While definitely not ideal, face coverings are helping keep kids in school and keep kids involved with school activities.

We have maintained normal operations due to the diligence of our staff, students, and families. Thank you for supporting our efforts. We will continue monitoring trends and timelines to provide our students the best learning opportunity possible. PDE and PA DOH has posted guidance on case counts that could result in a move to remote learning. At this point, that decision is still a local decision. Supporting our students, whether at home or school, is our focus. As we see COVID impact our staff, a change in our instruction model or school calendar may be considered.

Next week, we expect to hear updates from Governor Wolf on school district's responsibility for reporting cases and close contacts. We will update the community with information you may need.

Please visit the [Pennsylvania Department of Health website](http://www.health.pa.gov) (www.health.pa.gov) for the latest and most accurate information about COVID-19.

Sincerely,

*Matthew D. Splain*

OESD Superintendent