



## 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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(814) 817-1380 opt. 2

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Kaci L. Daniels, Principal

Colleen E. Storer, School Counselor

September 27, 2021

Dear Otto-Eldred Community,

Since Friday, September 24, we received confirmation of one new positive student cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the Otto-Eldred Junior Senior High School and one new case in the Otto-Eldred Elementary School. In total, we are tracking 10 active cases between buildings. Over the next few days, we anticipate those numbers growing. All presumed positive cases and all confirmed positive cases 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 at least 100 students and staff from having to quarantine from just the cases identified over this past 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.

During the last week, a limited number of extra-curricular events were cancelled due to low student numbers. With current cases seen in staff and students, additional events may be postponed or cancelled. Moving to remote at a few grade levels is also under consideration. If that is needed, parents and students will receive notice as soon as the decision is made. All students will have access to course materials via Microsoft Teams, email or through other communication methods. Additionally, meals will be made available at each building for pick up in the event that large group of students transition to remote learning.

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