



Otto-Eldred School District

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Otto-Eldred Junior Senior High School

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Kaci L. Daniels, Principal

Colleen E. Storer, School Counselor

November 15, 2021

Dear Otto-Eldred Community,

From Saturday, November 13, 2021 through Friday, November 19, 2021 we received notice of four new confirmed positive student cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the Otto-Eldred Junior Senior High School and zero new confirmed cases in the Otto-Eldred Elementary School. As of Monday, November 22, we are tracking three active, confirmed cases between buildings. Additionally, two presumed cases have been identified by medical professionals. Presumed cases are typically identified within a household of a positive case, with none impacting our buildings. Cleaning and disinfecting of the exposed location have been completed and all impacted individuals are self-isolating at home.

Due to the consistent masking practices and through application of CDC guidelines, very few close contacts were identified due to exposure at school. Our school nurse has been in contact with these families to provide guidance on a safe return to school. Our community, our staff and our 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 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. Please remember that masks are required for all entering the building, at least through December 3, 2021.

We have maintained normal operations due to the diligence of our staff, students, and families. We will continue monitoring trends and timelines to provide our students the best learning opportunity possible. Supporting our students, whether at home or school, is our focus.

Last week, COVID booster shots were made available to all of our adult populations. Updated information on vaccine eligibility and availability can be found at: [COVID-19 Vaccine \(pa.gov\)](https://www.pa.gov/covid-19-vaccine). Our 5-11 year old population is also eligible for the COVID vaccine approved for emergency use, at a lesser dose. The same link will provide guidance on availability in our area.

As of today, the current PA mask order will be voided through court action on December 4, 2021. Also, we are exploring a rapid testing option that will help maintain students in school. More detailed information will be sent out to all families next week. Parents/guardians will need to provide permission for any student to be tested.

Please visit the [Pennsylvania Department of Health website](https://www.health.pa.gov) (www.health.pa.gov) for the latest and most accurate information about COVID-19. Updates to our Health & Safety Plan as well as other resources are available at the Otto-Eldred School District website at www.ottoeldred.org.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Splain

OESD Superintendent