



Otto-Eldred School District

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Otto-Eldred Elementary School

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Otto-Eldred Junior Senior High School

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Kaci L. Daniels, Principal

Colleen E. Storer, School Counselor

September 24, 2021

Dear Otto-Eldred Community,

Since Monday, September 20, we received confirmation of four new positive student cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the Otto-Eldred Junior Senior High School and five new cases in the Otto-Eldred Elementary School. In total, we are tracking 15 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 at least 100 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.

It is anticipated that the FDA may soon approve COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 6-11. A survey will be shared in the next few weeks to assess parent interest in this vaccination. If interested, please complete the survey (sent via email) or call the elementary office. We may consider hosting a clinic for elementary age students based on the following:

- Minimally 30 families are interested in receiving the vaccine.
- A clinic can be schedule that does not negatively impact the instructional day.
- A clinic can be scheduled that allows parents to accompany students.
- Qualified 3rd party personnel (pharmacy, hospital, etc.) are on site to administer the vaccine.
- Supports are in place for students that may experience side effects from the vaccine.

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