



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

Otto-Eldred Elementary School

5 N. Bennett St, Eldred, PA 16731

(814) 817-1380 opt. 1

Fax (814) 225-4917

Lindsay A. Burns, Principal

Kim S. Alfieri, School Counselor

Melissa M. Merry, Director of Curriculum

Otto-Eldred Junior Senior High School

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

(814) 817-1380 opt. 2

Fax (814) 966-3911

Kaci L. Daniels, Principal

Colleen E. Storer, School Counselor

October 22, 2020

Dear O-E Parents:

We have received many inquiries related to traveling outside of our area and outside of our state. Answers to questions related to excused educational absence can be found at:

https://tb2cdn.schoolwebmasters.com/acct_237834/site_246392/Documents/EducFieldTrips_OEHS.pdf

Pennsylvania updates a list of “hot spot” areas weekly on the Department of Health website. Travel outside of the United State is subject to Federal regulations and would likely require quarantine.

<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/coronavirus/Pages/Travelers.aspx>

While there is no requirement to quarantine upon return from travel within the United States, it is Governor Wolf’s recommendation to quarantine when returning from states on this list of areas experiencing COVID spread. As always, this can change at any minute. The goal is to minimize any opportunity for the COVID-19 to spread within our state and our community. As we follow the current trend in our local area, the impact on our students’ education as well as the impact on our employers must be respected. Please be sure to understand any impact traveling will have on the continuity of your child’s education as well as the impact on your work environment. Each employer may have specific requirements in place regarding an employee’s availability to return to work due to travel and sickness resulting from travel.

In these challenging times, we must trust one another to take the proper precautions to keep ourselves safe and through that effort, keep our community safe. No matter our own personal beliefs or perceptions, our actions outside our school can and will impact our school community. Whether our travels take us to a local store, a regional shopping center or a family holiday tradition, we all must be aware of the risks assumed while traveling outside our homes and local communities. We have had a successful start to the school year with many activities restarted as well. A COVID cluster can form very quickly, creating a ripple effect through a community creating a series of cancellations and closings that no one wants to experience again. Our overall planning and recommendations will be focused with our school community health and safety in mind.

If your family does travel outside of the area (either on the “list” or not), and you feel it would be necessary to quarantine for a period of time once you return, OESD is ready to support your decision. Assuming your internet connection is strong enough, we can assist in setting up synchronous connections at home. Additionally, while traveling, it may be possible to connect with classrooms so that students do not fall behind in coursework. When students do return, please expect “check-ins” from the nurse’s office to be sure all are healthy in the household.

Throughout this pandemic, there are few clear and concise answers that can be applied consistently. This issue is no exception. The best course of action is to maintain communication with the school district and plan with the safety of all in mind.

Sincerely,

Matthew D. Splain, Superintendent