



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

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

November 8, 2021

Dear Otto-Eldred Community,

From Saturday, October 30 through Friday, November 5, we received confirmation of four new positive student cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the Otto-Eldred Junior Senior High School and zero new case in the Otto-Eldred Elementary School. As of Monday, November 8, we are tracking 7 active cases between buildings. Additionally, a few 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 the 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.

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. We look forward to our upcoming winter season of concerts, basketball, wrestling, and trap. School Messenger, email and social media will be used to notify our school community of

We are hopeful the current trend of reduced COVID-19 infections in McKean County will continue. As of late last week, COVID booster shots were made available to much of our adult populations. Updated information on vaccine eligibility and availability can be found at: [COVID-19 Vaccine \(pa.gov\)](https://www.pa.gov/health/covid-19/vaccine). Late last week, emergency authorization was approved for vaccinations of the 5- to 11-year-old age group. We recommend families discuss this decision with your family primary care physician.

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