

WEBUTUCK CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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Dear Webutuck Families,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe, healthy and enjoying the New Year! Throughout Dutchess County, communities continue to struggle with keeping the infection rate of COVID-19 under control. As of the penning of this letter, the Dutchess County positivity rate is 8.64% on a seven day rolling average. This number is the highest it has been since early May of 2020. The medical professionals had warned us about the “holiday spike,” and it is my hope that the rate will steadily decrease over the next few weeks.

On **Monday, January 11**, we are expected to return back to a hybrid model of instruction. This hybrid model consists of students at grades Prek-6 attending in-person or remote instruction on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Students in grades 7-12 will attend in-person instruction in a cohort model assigned either a Monday/Tuesday or Thursday/Friday cohort. For all students, Wednesdays will continue to be a correspondence and communication day for parents, students and staff.

It is extremely important that in order for our schools to remain in some form of an in-person model that proper hygiene and social distancing protocols continue to be followed. This also requires parents to follow the protocols outlined on our District Webpage www.webutuckschools.org specifically this link <https://bit.ly/2Xp0G64> or for Spanish <https://bit.ly/3noMAMz>. Please be vigilant in following these guidelines to keep everyone healthy and safe. If your child is not feeling well, please keep them home.

Currently, the District is working closely with the Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH) in developing a COVID-19 testing plan and procedure. This plan will become necessary if the Governor mandates schools to test a certain population of its staff and students as a requirement to remain open for in-person instruction if they are able to. At this time, we are only developing the plan to test. The Board of Education and administration have not instituted any type of testing plan at this time. As a District, we need to be prepared if it becomes a requirement. More information and a survey will be sent home for parents soon.

Also, the District is working closely with the DOH to develop a vaccination plan for its faculty and staff. According to the DOH, “teachers and education workers” have been identified as Group 1B in the distribution plan of the COVID-19 vaccine. Information and a survey will be distributed to faculty and staff very soon.

I thank you for your continued support and patience during this unprecedented period of time that we are all encountering. It is my hope that we get back to a “normal way of life” very soon. Until then, we will work together as a community to keep everyone healthy and safe.

Respectfully,

Raymond Castellani