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As we transition from dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic to dealing with the Covid-10 endemic, I would like to update you on our current reality.

Our school has been given a supply of 'At Home' tests and I have been giving them out to families of school aged children each afternoon. If you would like tests, please pick them up in the Visitor Center between 9:00 AM and 2:30 PM. If you are unable to come in at those times, please email Andrea Dawson at adawson@cc.cnyric.org to make other arrangements. Two test kits come in a box and contain one set of directions.

If you are watching the news, you know that schools across the country are all dealing with Covid-related issues as we exit the holiday season. We have been following New York State guidance throughout the school year to keep schools open to in-person instruction. If your child has a symptom of Covid, use extreme caution and test proactively before reporting to sending them to school. Symptoms include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nasal congestion, rhinorrhea, nausea, or skin rashes.

Currently, we have several staff and students out as having tested positive or awaiting testing results. Nine staff members developed COVID over our holiday break and fifteen students tested positive. The expectation is this scenario will continue for a couple of weeks. We are working to ensure we have staff to cover classrooms and will do everything within our control to continue our typical operations on a daily basis. These cases are from community or household spread and we still have not had very much spread of Covid within our school building.

New York State Department of Health issued the following update on January 4, 2022 for the general population and Cortland County has adopted the practice as of January 6, 2022:

- For isolation of the general population that tested positive for COVID, follow the CDC recommendations as follows:
 - Isolate for 5 days, where day 0 is the day of symptom onset or (if symptomatic) the day of collection of the first positive specimen.
 - If asymptomatic at the end of the 5 days or if symptoms are resolving, isolation ends and the individual should wear a well-fitting mask while around others for a period of 5 days. **This needs to be a surgical mask or KN95 (no cloth masks). Days 6 - 10 allows for students to come to school only. They may not participate in sports or other extracurricular activities.**

- Individuals who are moderately-severely immunocompromised should continue to follow standard (not shortened) isolation guidance.
- Individuals who are unable to wear a well-fitting mask for 5 days after a 5-day quarantine should also follow standard isolation guidance.
- If exposed to COVID-19, quarantine as follows, where day 0 is the last date of exposure:
 - If not fully vaccinated or fully vaccinated and eligible for a booster but not yet boosted, quarantine for 5 days and wear a well-fitting mask while around others for an additional 5 days.
 - If fully vaccinated and boosted (with booster at least 2 weeks before the first date of exposure) or not yet eligible for a booster, no quarantine is required but these individuals should wear a well-fitting mask while around others for 10 days after the last date of exposure. **This needs to be a surgical mask or KN95 (no cloth masks). Days 6 - 10 allows for students to come to school only. They may not participate in sports or other extracurricular activities.**
 - If possible, test at day 5 with either a nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT, e.g., PCR) or antigen test.
 - If symptoms appear, quarantine and seek testing. In this situation, quarantine would end when the test is negative. If testing is not done, isolate according to the guidance above.

Per Cortland County, they will NOT be backdating any orders of quarantine or isolation.

Planned clinics in Marathon, Truxton and Cortland are now able to provide boosters of Pfizer to ages 12 and over 5 months after their initial Pfizer vaccination series. The registration link (below) has been updated.

<https://www.cortland-co.org/DocumentCenter/View/11009/booster-dose-registratin-links>

As new information becomes available, we will continue to share. Have a great day.

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