



WORCESTER CENTRAL SCHOOL

198 Main St., Worcester, NY 12197
Phone (607) 397-8785 • Fax (607) 397-9454
www.worcestercs.org

December 11, 2020

Dear Worcester Central School Families,

By now, you have likely heard of or have seen, [New York State's Micro-Cluster Initiative](#), where regions of the state are designated by color coded zones ranging from Yellow, Orange or Red. These zones are based on the number of positive COVID-19 cases in those areas. In each zone designation there are different restrictions for businesses, gatherings, and schools. At this time, our region is not in one of these zones, but as COVID-19 infection rates increase in Otsego County and the region, we could be there soon. The Governor's office will be making the determination of new zones this weekend and announcing them on Monday, December 11, 2020.

If WCS is placed in one of these zones the school can remain open but the state will require that we test a specified percentage of all in-person students and staff for COVID-19 over a given period of time. Originally, we thought this to be an impossible option due to the many restrictions. However, over the course of the last few weeks some restrictions have been lessened, and we have worked hard to overcome the remaining challenges necessary to meet the COVID-19 testing requirements.

There are still some approvals from the New York State Department of Health needed but we are working with the Otsego County Department of Health and Bassett Health Care Center to assist us in preparing our testing plan to meet the requirements and to stay open if in a designated zone. As part of that plan, we will be asking all staff and families for consent to a minimally invasive, rapid COVID-19 test. It is important to note that we would shift to remote instruction until the final approvals and testing plan is solidified and consent can be obtained.

While this is yet another challenge for our school community, we are committed to keeping WCS open for in-person instruction, so long as we can do so safely. Working together, I am confident that we can get through this new challenge. Thank you for your continued efforts in taking the necessary steps to assist us in our healthy school environment. I would like to also thank you very much for your ongoing support, patience, and flexibility.

Respectfully,

Tim Gonzales
Superintendent