

# Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District

**Mrs. Andrea L. Galenski**  
Superintendent of Schools  
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November 16, 2020

Dear Cheektowaga-Sloan Families:

I wanted to follow-up with all families today regarding our continued Yellow Zone designation.

Last week, I communicated that the Yellow Zone designation requires school districts to test 20% of in-person students, teachers and staff at each school, at least once per week, for as long as the school remains in a designated Yellow Zone. Since then, guidance from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has evolved to give schools additional time to implement testing. As a result, unless any of our schools is elevated beyond a Yellow Zone in the meantime, we should be able to continue our hybrid model of learning at least through this week.

Since the Erie County Department of Health still indicates that it will not support schools with testing, we continue to pursue all options that may enable us to satisfy State requirements without shifting to a 100% remote learning model. To this end, the Cheektowaga-Sloan School District has applied to be a Limited Service Laboratory (LSL), which would grant the district a license to administer COVID-19 tests as well as the ability to order test kits directly from the NYSDOH. This is the first step in a multi-step process that would involve contracting with a private agency who would support us with administering the tests along with the extensive data entry involved with each test. Based on current guidance from the State, we anticipate that any testing protocol would give parents the right to decide whether to *consent* or *not consent* to having their children tested without foregoing in-person instruction, as long as we have enough consenting individuals to satisfy the testing requirement (currently 20%).

I cannot thank all of our parents enough for being such strong partners throughout this process. I never imagined having to think about becoming a medical laboratory or testing site in my years in education. All I can say is that we will do whatever it takes and explore all of our options to ensure that if we can safely do so, that we provide an opportunity to have our students attend school in-person in our current hybrid model.

Thank you for continuing to prepare for possibly pivoting to 100% remote learning and for visiting our website if you need assistance with childcare. I will communicate with all families later this week as additional information becomes available.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. Galenski  
Superintendent of Schools

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*Our mission is to provide a positive academic and social learning environment that fosters independence, responsibility, life-long learning and student success.*