

# Cheektowaga-Sloan Union Free School District

**Mrs. Andrea L. Galenski**  
Superintendent of Schools  
(716) 891-6402



**Board of Education**  
Denise McCowan - President  
Claire M. Ferrucci - Vice President  
Stephanie Dombrowski  
Wesley Schlossin  
Gary Sieczkarek  
Zachary Smith  
Jeffery Stewart

November 9, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I wanted to be sure to communicate with our families today after listening to Governor Cuomo's address earlier today about COVID-19.

The rate of COVID-19 infection is increasing rapidly throughout Erie County. Governor Cuomo has instituted a new strategy of monitoring and responding to outbreaks of new cases within a limited and definable geographic area, which are called micro-clusters. I would like to thank our students, faculty and staff who have diligently followed our health and safety protocols to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Unfortunately, despite everyone's best efforts, the rising community spread of the virus could impact our hybrid instructional model.

The Governor's micro-cluster strategy uses multiple data points (positivity rate, hospitalizations, population density, contact tracing, etc.) to identify a geographic area by region, county, zip code, or a more granular location. Once an area has been identified, the local Department of Health engages in regulated and focused containment efforts. The containment efforts include designating the micro-cluster zone with a color to indicate the severity of the outbreak. The possible color-coded micro-cluster zones are as follows:

- Yellow Zone:** Seven day rolling positive test rate average above 2.5% and 10 or more new cases per 100,000 residents for ten consecutive days.
- Orange Zone:** Seven day rolling positive test rate average above 3.0% and 10 or more new cases per 100,000 residents for ten consecutive days.
- Red Zone:** Seven day rolling positive test rate average above 4.0% and 10 or more new cases per 100,000 residents for ten consecutive days.

The zones can include specific streets and addresses or could include buildings within the identified zip code. It is possible for a school in one zip code to be designated in a micro-cluster, while a school in a different zip code would not be. The zip codes of our Cheektowaga-Sloan schools are listed below:

- 14206-Theodore Roosevelt Elementary
- 14212-Woodrow Wilson Elementary
- 14227-John F. Kennedy Middle School & John. F. Kennedy High School

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166 Halstead Avenue • Sloan, New York 14212-2295 • [www.cheektowagasloan.org](http://www.cheektowagasloan.org)

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

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Cheektowaga-Sloan is now designated to be in a **yellow zone micro-cluster**. The school can potentially remain open to in-person instruction, however, it would need to randomly identify and test 20% of its students and staff each week until the data points drop below the yellow zone levels. If the school cannot meet these testing parameters, it must transition to fully remote instruction. It is important to note that at the present time, the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) is unable to assist school districts with the random testing requirements. However, the ECDOH has indicated that they will be providing school districts with additional information regarding the requirements for the yellow zone designation.

Cheektowaga-Sloan families need to be prepared to transition temporarily to remote instruction, and create alternative plans for child-care. As a reminder, please visit our website for Virtual Childcare options that may be helpful to you. You can find this information on our District Website COVID-19 page under *helpful links*. As always, we will keep you informed as circumstances change and decisions are made.

Thank you for your strong partnership especially during this challenging time. The health and safety of everyone continues to be our highest priority.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. Galenski  
Superintendent of Schools