

Berlin

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

17400 Route 22, Cherry Plain, NY 12040 | Phone: 518-658-1500
P.O. Box 259, Berlin NY 12022

Stephen Young, PhD, Superintendent of Schools

January 14, 2021

Dear Berlin Families,

I would like to thank you all for the continued support that you have shown during the many changes that have occurred this year. As a District, we are committed to doing everything we can in order to offer in-person instruction in a safe and responsible manner.

If our region is designated as a yellow, orange or red zone, as per [Governor Cuomo's Cluster Action Initiative](#), the Berlin CSD will begin school-based COVID testing. As a reminder, the metrics are as follows:

- A Yellow Zone is a geographic area (zip code, census tract, etc.) with a 3% positivity rate over the past 10 days AND the cluster is in the top 10 percent for hospital admissions per capita over the past week and week-over-week growth in daily admissions.
- An Orange Zone is a geographic area (zip code, census tract, etc.) with a 4% positivity rate over the past 10 days AND 85% hospital capacity OR the Department of Health determines an unacceptably high rate of hospital admissions.
- A Red Zone is a geographic area (zip code, census tract, etc.) that is 21 days from 90% hospital capacity.

To help us prepare for testing should our region be designated as a yellow, orange or red zone, please review the School-Based Testing Information and Frequently Asked Questions [here](#) on our website and consider giving consent for school-based COVID-19 testing by filling out the Consent for Student COVID-19 Testing Form. If you have not received a form via email or would like to change your response, please contact Karen Capozzi at kcapozzi@berlincentral.org.

If you consent, your child may be randomly selected to receive a free COVID-19 Rapid Test. A video-demonstration of the test can be viewed [here](#) or on the district's School-Based COVID-19 Testing Information and FAQ webpage. Students who are learning 100% virtually do not need to fill out this form. Please note that these tests are non-invasive and are not the deep-swab procedures performed at medical facilities.

As infection rates around the state rise, we should be prepared for the eventual likelihood of testing. Testing is not mandatory for students, however, if we do not receive consent from at least 20%, we would likely be forced to shift to full remote instruction for students in grades K-12. Random testing will occur in each school building.

We will keep you informed of any developments and plans for state-mandated COVID-19 testing at our schools. Please remember to continue to follow all health and safety precautions to help stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Sincerely,
Dr. Stephen Young
Berlin CSD Superintendent