



Alfred-Almond Central School District

I am an Eagle, watch me soar!

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October 5, 2020

Dear AACCS Parents/Guardians:

This letter is intended to provide you with additional information related to our recent building closures.

On Monday, September 28 we closed the building due to a positive case of COVID-19 in our school. When a positive case is identified in the school the Department of Health (DOH) requires the school to be closed for 24 hours to deep clean and contact trace. Once direct contacts of a positive case are identified, the DOH notifies the individuals that are required to be quarantined.

On Thursday, October 1 and Friday, October 2 the building was closed as one of our students was a direct contact to a positive COVID-19 case in their household. This information was not shared at the time of closure to protect the privacy of the individual and the family in compliance with HIPAA and FERPA guidelines. After learning of this, I consulted the Allegany County DOH, our school nurse and medical director. Although we were not required to close under this circumstance it was agreed it was the most responsible and safest course of action until testing results were available. Thankfully, the result was negative, however; if it had been positive it would have resulted in thirty-seven direct contacts with a positive case of COVID-19.

I understand these are uncertain times for all and when unexpected closures occur it can be very stressful and difficult for families and for that I am truly sorry. Be assured when these decisions are necessary they are made with the information available at the time and the guidance of the Department of Health, our school nurse and medical director. I am confident it was the right decision to close the building last week as it was in the best interest of our students, families, faculty, and staff and I will continue to err on the side of caution every time when it comes to your children and our employees.

The challenges of a worldwide pandemic continue to impact us all, but we are in this together, and together makes us strong. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tracie Bliven
Superintendent of Schools