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September 24, 2020

Dear ACS Families and Staff:

The following communication was received yesterday, September 23, 2020, from the Erie County Health Department:

“The Erie County Department of Health has developed its guidance for p-12 schools and higher education with two goals in mind: keeping students and staff in these environments safe and healthy; and, keeping schools and colleges open for learning.

We understand the frustrations felt by school administrators, school employees, parents and families regarding schools reopening. We also understand the anxiety and fear that many people are feeling about the possibility of positive COVID cases being identified in their schools. Our department has a contact tracing team that is specifically focused on schools. This team is in regular contact with school districts, our epidemiologists and the New York State Department of Health about how we can make the best public health decisions for our school communities. One of those decisions was to provide our contact tracers with additional guidance around classroom contacts in a school setting when determining who to place in quarantine.

That full guidance and a Q&A document are meant to clarify what ECDOH is doing to respond to COVID cases within schools. These documents can be found at erie.gov/covid19/schools.

In addition, with support from NYSDOH, our department is establishing sites for point-of-care testing to identify COVID cases in school settings. At this time, we will offer scheduled appointments for this testing to:

- **Symptomatic** students who attend any in-person classes in a school
- **Symptomatic** school employees (must bring a school ID)

We will have three sites set up each weekday at a Northtowns, Central and Southtowns location starting 9/28. These appointments can be scheduled by calling 716-858-2929, the Erie County COVID-19 Information Line. We plan to open scheduling two days in advance; anyone who we cannot accommodate will be offered an appointment through our regular drive-through sites.”

As always, stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,

Adam Stoltman
Superintendent of Schools