

Laura Dutton
Superintendent of Schools
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Poland

**CENTRAL
SCHOOL
DISTRICT**

Prepared, Productive, Proud

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Friday, January 8, 2021

COVID-19 Communication, Virtual Instruction Announcement

Poland Central School District has extended its virtual learning for students through Monday, Jan. 18, with a return to in-person instruction on Tuesday, Jan. 19. We also seek to inform the school community that we have received report of an additional confirmed, positive case of COVID-19.

Previously, when the District was notified Tuesday night, Jan. 5, of an employee's confirmed positive case of COVID-19, all PK-12 instruction was moved to virtual model. The virtual instruction began Jan. 6. The final day of virtual instruction had been planned for today.

Last night, Poland Central School was notified of an additional staff member who tested positive for COVID-19. The District has worked closely with the Herkimer County Health Department to implement contact tracing for a small number of students and employees connected to the most recent case. An immediate response was for our District to implement additional cleaning and sanitizing on our campus; however, we do not have reason to believe the two positive tests arising this week among our employees are connected, nor do we have any reason to believe they are a result of insufficient cleaning and sanitizing on campus.

As much as we intend to exercise caution for all students and staff, the decision to remain virtual for both the elementary and secondary students for January 11-15 is heavily impacted by the multiple adult quarantines we are experiencing combined with planned, necessary personal absences, and medical needs for employees as well as a limited number of available and qualified substitutes for the variety of absences that would need to be filled. We are hopeful that this next week will provide an opportunity for our students and employees to be released from quarantine and return to wellness.

All Poland students who attend Herkimer BOCES programs are continuing on their regular schedules with District-provided transportation.

Further information and announcements will be provided as updates are available. If you have further questions/concerns, do not hesitate to contact the district office at 315-826-0203.

Sincerely yours,

Laura M. Dutton
Superintendent of Schools