

Dear Parents and Guardians,

On Monday, the Times Union reported that Governor Cuomo has announced new metrics to guide school closures. The new metrics require districts in counties with a COVID-19 positivity rate above nine percent to test a percentage of on-site students and staff, or shift to remote learning.

Although details of the plan have not been released, the Governor's remarks suggest school leaders can expect a clearer guide to decide when to test students, close buildings, and shift to remote instruction. In order to be proactive, Wildwood School is preparing to test 20% of a combination of staff and students over a two-week period. We will test 10% per week and at the conclusion of the two weeks, if our positivity rate is below nine percent, we will remain in our Hybrid 1 model. If our positivity rate is above nine percent, we will pivot to our fully remote model.

We still need to work out some logistics with Adirondack Health and Wellness to administer the testing, but we plan to begin testing as soon as possible. We will provide parents and guardians with advanced notice of exactly when testing will begin and we will only be testing those students whose parents have given consent. Not all students who have consent will be tested. No student will be forced to be tested and parents will be notified ahead of time if their child has been randomly chosen to be tested.

Our goal is to provide in-person instruction for as long as possible. In order to do this, the health and safety of our students and staff are paramount. If you have any questions please contact me.

Thank you.

Bill