



November 20, 2020

Dear Cantalician Families/Caregivers:

As announced on November 18, 2020 by Governor Andrew Cuomo, Cantalician Center for Learning's locations are operating within a designated "Orange Zone" for Covid-19. As a result of the previous "Yellow Zone" designation, our School Age and Preschool Services have pivoted to remote learning as of Monday, November 16, 2020 and will remain remote until the proper testing protocols are in place. This letter contains important information, please review it carefully.

**While in a designated orange (or red) zone, in order to reopen for hybrid learning, all hybrid staff and hybrid students must be tested and receive a negative result.** Students who refuse testing must continue with remote learning only. After an initial round of testing, a sample of 25% of staff and students must be conducted on a weekly basis. A new sample of unique students and staff must be tested each week. If tests yield a school infection rate of 3% or more than 9 cases, hybrid learning will again be suspended.

While in an orange or red zone, Cantalician will decide on a week-to-week basis if hybrid learning can occur based on the testing results and the number of staff available to work in the building.

### **Testing:**

Like many schools in Erie County, we are developing a process for testing our on-site staff and students. This is proving to be extremely challenging and will take us some time so please be patient. We are as working to acquire the necessary Limited Service Laboratory (LSL) certificate which would allow our school nurses, or other contracted personnel, to administer the test that should be provided by the New York State Department of Health. The test is simple and quick, using a short nasal swab, and offers results in 15 minutes. Here's a link to a demo of the test: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vj6MvFudW6M>. We are also investigating the possibility of using a cheek swab. It is our intent to administer testing on-site at school or allow parents/caregivers to obtain testing from their preferred provider given test results are provided to the school to allow the student to return to the hybrid model. In the event of a positive test, you would be notified, and we would follow the protocols outlined in our reopening plan.

Over the next several months, Covid-19 testing will likely become a fact of life for our staff and students to continue in-person learning. We will be sure to give parents/caregivers advanced notice of when it is your child's turn to be tested. Please know that we cannot test your child without your written consent, so please be on the lookout for the consent form that will be made available to you as soon as possible. When you receive it, you must review it, indicate your choice, and return it to us as quickly as possible. Your prompt attention to this is greatly appreciated and will assist us in returning to hybrid learning.

We realize that these times are very challenging so please know that we are working very hard to keep our doors open for hybrid learning. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to work hard to deliver the best-quality education to your child as possible. If you have any questions, please email [CovidResponse@Cantalician.org](mailto:CovidResponse@Cantalician.org) and we will be sure to get back to you promptly.

Best regards,

Jason Petko  
Director of Education