



*St. Mary's School for the Deaf is committed to providing equitable access to exemplary educational programs that prepare deaf students to be self-directed, lifelong learners, who are productive members of society.*

November 19, 2020

Dear St. Mary's Faculty, Staff and Families:

Governor Cuomo recently announced that most of Erie County including the City of Buffalo has been elevated from the "Yellow Zone" to the "Orange Zone" as part of New York State's (NYS) Micro-Cluster Action Initiative. As a result, St. Mary's School for the Deaf (SMSD) will continue to follow a full remote model of instruction until further notice. SMSD is unlikely to open for in-person instruction while NYS is under an "Orange Zone" or a "Red Zone."

It is our sincere hope that our area will return to the status we were under in early November as soon as possible. If our area re-enters the "Yellow Zone," in-person instruction will be considered. SMSD continues to work out the logistics of testing in-person students and staff according to NYS guidelines.

As we enter this phase, please know there continues to be a support system in place for your family. Our students will continue to receive direct education services from their certified teachers in a remote learning model. Audiology services and Counseling, Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, and Physical Therapy sessions will continue. Students' Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals will continue to be addressed. Biweekly meal distribution will be available on campus. Pick-up times are Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. from the back parking lot off Dewey Avenue beginning Monday, November 23.

We are in this together and will remain SMSD STRONG!

Sincerely,

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