

Victor schools seeing spike in COVID cases; more than 100 absences at elementary school

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Two dozen positive COVID-19 cases have emerged in the Victor Central School District.

According to district Superintendent Tim Terranova, 21 Victor students and three adults have tested positive as of Tuesday. The Victor Primary School was particularly hard hit with 15 of those 24 cases, he said.

On Tuesday, 118 students were absent from Victor Primary School, which houses more than 600 students who are mostly in second and third grade, Terranova said that two full classes of students and 88 of those 118 absences were due to mandated quarantines.

“We are working collaboratively with the Ontario County Health Department to do whatever we can to attempt to keep each of our buildings open for in-person learning,” Terranova wrote in a letter.

The district will increase sanitizing and cleaning efforts and continue “to practice as much social distancing as possible.” Thursday’s scheduled “Get Acquainted Night” at the Primary School will be a virtual event instead of an in-person event.

The district will also establish voluntary testing in the next two weeks for students who wish to test out of quarantine, in accordance with the state mandate.

COVID-19 in schools, child cases

“Earlier this month, nearly 3 million children in New York State returned to in-person learning, with state guidance issued on masks, social distancing and testing programs,” state Department of Health spokeswoman Abigail Barker said late Tuesday.

“Since that time, testing has helped identify and diagnose 5,582 students across the state with COVID- 19,” she said. “Those students and their close contacts began home-learning protocols.”

“This tells us we need to remain vigilant and continue with the mitigation measures. We are watching this closely and will adapt based on data and science,” she added.

Federal regulators and national advocacy groups provided key details about how COVID-19 still posed a comparatively lower threat to children than adults, despite rising cases in ages 0 to 17.

As of Sept. 16, nearly 226,000 child COVID-19 cases were added nationally during the prior week, the third-highest level since the pandemic began, according to the latest American Academy of Pediatrics report.

After declining in early summer, child COVID-19 cases nationally have increased exponentially, with over 925,000 cases in the past four weeks, the report noted, adding New York state is among a handful of states with partial or absent data on age of COVID infections. New York City, however, provided the information.

Among 26 states and New York City reporting COVID-19 hospitalization data for children, the age group ranged from 1.6% to 4.2% of the total cumulated COVID-19 hospitalizations, the report found. And between 0.1% to 2% of all their child COVID-19 cases resulted in hospitalization.

Further, in New York, ages 0 to 19 accounted for just 32 of the nearly 44,200 confirmed COVID-19 deaths, state data on Monday showed.

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