

West Irondequoit district cancels classes, events due to staffing shortages

Sean Lahman Rochester Democrat and Chronicle USA TODAY NETWORK Classes in the West Irondequoit school district will be canceled on Friday, Dec. 17 for all K-12 students.

In a statement released Thursday, district superintendent Aaron Johnson said the emergency closure was due to the high number of projected absences among staff members.

'Our staff has been outstanding at stepping in to manage gaps while covering absences and thanks to that work we've developed an understanding of our staffing threshold,' Johnson said. 'Based on projections, we are expected to extend beyond that ceiling. I am confident we will be able to open on Monday, December 20th, as scheduled. We wanted to give families as much advance notice as possible, so they can plan accordingly.'

All school buildings will be closed, but transportation will still be operating for West Irondequoit students who attend private schools, charter schools, or out-of-district placements.

Coaches of sports teams will contact their players regarding Friday's practices or games. Any home games/events will be rescheduled. Away contests will be played as scheduled with regular transportation provided.

Daily tracking data compiled by the New York State Department of Health does not show a significant increase in positive COVID-19 tests for teachers and staff over the last two weeks.

According to that data, only 1 of the district's 320 teachers has tested positive over the last 14 days, with 9 of 348 staff members reporting a positive COVID-19 test.

Data provided by the district shows that daily absences by employees are up 27% this year compared to 2019, with many positions unfilled.

Illness, both for employees and their families, is driving the difference.

Includes reporting by staff writer Justin Murphy Contact staff reporter Sean Lahman at

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