



# Churchville-Chili Central School District

*Where learning leads to a lifetime of opportunities*

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Howard Zucker, M.D., Commissioner  
New York State Department of Health  
Corning Tower  
Empire State Plaza  
Albany, NY 12237

February 25, 2021

Dear Commissioner Zucker,

We are corresponding with you on behalf of the students and families of the Churchville-Chili School District with regard to reopening our schools fully. In late August we submitted a plan adhering to the guidelines set forth of six foot social distancing and wearing of facemasks. The plan also included all of the personal protective equipment and safety protocols across the district, as well.

Recently, approval was given for "high risk" sports to begin and was received favorably among our families, students, and coaches. However, this approval lacked the ability for us to return our students to school fully because the six foot social distancing requirement is still intact.

Given that our school community has no evidence of any internal spread and we have the capacity to implement rapid testing, we are formally requesting the reduction of the social distancing requirement, not only in our academic classrooms but our fine arts and physical education classes and on our school buses as well.

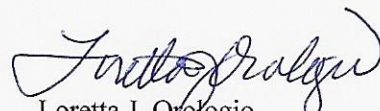
Our families are at their breaking point. Our students are dismayed, frustrated, and are losing interest in their learning due to the loss of connection with their peers and teachers due to hybrid learning environment and remote learning which was a result of the six foot social distancing protocol.


Our students deserve the opportunity to return to school five days per week for in-person instruction. We are respectfully requesting that you address this requirement with transparency as many of our families believe each district does have this authority, when in reality, you do.

We recognize the enormous weight and challenge of each decision that is made for the betterment and maintenance of health across the state. However, please take into consideration the vaccination rate of school staff, the school testing positivity rate, the seven-day rolling average of our community, and the recent approval for athletics.

Thank you for your leadership and your willingness to consider additional opportunities for the students to return to school fully.

Respectfully,

  
Loretta J. Orologio  
Superintendent

  
Cheryl L. Repass  
BOE President