



January 14, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may know, the state and county have made several updates regarding COVID procedures and protocols for students and staff. At the same time, the region and district continue to see a rise in cases following the winter recess. We recognize that the continuous release of department of health updates can be confusing. We encourage you to refer to our website for the most up to date information:

<https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDealthsafetyguide2021-22.cfm>. The district will update this information just as quickly as we can.

The most recent state and county changes in procedures and protocols include shortening the length of isolation/quarantine to five days, accepting positive home test results, and implementing an online form for reporting positive test results.

While they are subject to change, please make note of these updates to required protocols currently in place:

- If your child feels sick, keep your child at home and get your child tested.
- If your child tests positive, report the result, as well as any direct contacts, to the county through their new reporting portal at this link: <https://forms.chemungcountyny.gov/covidpaperwork/>. **Please also contact your school nurse.**
- If your child has symptoms but tests negative on a home test, please contact your medical provider to make arrangements for an alternative diagnosis or additional testing. If your child gets an alternative diagnosis or a negative test from your medical provider, the child may only return to school once they are 24 hours with no symptoms.
- If you learn that your child is a direct contact from a positive exposure outside of the school setting, **please notify your school nurse.** For updated information on the Test to Stay protocol, click here: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDealthsafetyguide2021-22.cfm>.

The district understands that the many changes and updates coming from the state can be challenging to navigate. Know that our staff is here to assist families with any situation that arises. Please reach out to your school office if you have questions or need clarification.

The district is planning another test distribution next week similar to the process used a week ago. We will share the details when we have them finalized.

While we continue to weather this latest surge in cases, we also hope that we are seeing the peak and that we can maintain in-person learning. To do so, we all need to follow the protocols in place during the pandemic. We remind you of the safety practices of limiting outings and travel, washing hands thoroughly and often, wearing masks when we must be out in public. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools