



January 28, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we reported earlier this week, the state has appealed the downstate court decision regarding masks, and a stay is in place keeping the mask requirement in schools. Please be aware that public schools in New York State must follow the direction of the state. This means that masks are still required in our schools. We understand that some may not agree with this requirement, but at this time, we must follow the state's direction until a change is officially ordered by the state or a final court judgment.

The district will continue to offer COVID test kits for enrolled students as long as we receive kits. Our next distribution will be Wednesday, February 2:

Test Distribution Wednesday, February 2, 2022

Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Location: Middle/Intermediate Field House (back entrance)

This distribution **will not** be a drive through. Please park in the designated area and enter the school via the Fieldhouse entrance. A staff member will be at the entrance and will hand you the test kits. We will provide two test kits per district-enrolled student at this distribution next week.

If you would like test kits but are in isolation/quarantine or otherwise are unable to drive on February 2, please contact the district office for assistance at hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com or 607-739-5601, x4260 or x4295.

Note that the district plans to continue distributing test kits on a regular basis as long as we have a supply of kits.

The test kits are not required. We ask that you assist the district by monitoring your child and keeping them home if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19.

What to do with test results or if your child feels ill:

- If your child tests positive,
 - Keep your child at home and report the result to the county through their reporting portal at this link: <https://forms.chemungcountyny.gov/covidpaperwork/>.
 - Please also contact your school nurse to give the district this information for attendance purposes.
- If your child has symptoms but tests negative on a home test,
 - Keep your child at home.
 - 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 do not get an alternative diagnosis or an additional negative test from a medical provider, the district must treat your student as a presumed positive for COVID with a five-day isolation period.

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- If you learn that your child is a direct contact from a positive COVID exposure,
 - **Keep your child at home, notify the school nurse**, and sign up for the Test to Stay procedure if eligible and if you wish for your child to continue attending school during their quarantine.
 - For updated information on the Test to Stay protocol, click here: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDDTestToStayStrategy.cfm>. Note that TTS testing is now held in each district school.
 - Report direct contact information through the county's new reporting portal at this link: <https://forms.chemungcountyny.gov/covidpaperwork/>. Please also contact your school nurse to give the district this information for attendance purposes.

We remind you that the district's most up-to-date procedures and protocols are on our website at this link: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDDhealthsafetyguide2021-22.cfm>. If you have questions, please contact your school office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas J. Douglas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "D".

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools

