



November 23, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Please see the following important informational items:

Test to Stay

Test to Stay (TTS) is a testing strategy that allows direct contacts of a person positive with COVID-19 to continue to attend school for instruction only if they test negative daily for COVID-19. Per the New York State Department of Health and the Chemung County Health Department, the Horseheads Central School District will implement the Test to Stay strategy beginning November 29 as long as COVID-19 diagnostic testing supplies are provided from state and local health departments.

This option is for students and staff who are identified as direct contacts and are both without symptoms and unvaccinated. By testing negative for seven consecutive days after exposure (excluding weekends), a student/staff member can be in school during the instructional day. This would require a negative result for COVID-19 using a rapid antigen test administered by school personnel at the beginning of each school day. Those participating in this opportunity are still required by the county to quarantine outside the school day.

Daily testing will begin 7 a.m. Tuesday, November 30, at the High School Fieldhouse (see below for a map). Those identified as a direct contact beginning Monday, November 29, will be given the opportunity to participate. Once the district begins the testing procedure, only new direct contacts from that date forward will be able to participate in TTS. This means that anyone identified as a direct contact before November 29 is not eligible for TTS and must remain in quarantine.

For more details about the TSS strategy and a map to the testing site, please click here:

<https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDDTestToStayStrategy.cfm>

Indoor Activities

With winter concerts, sports, and other activities are upon us, there are questions about spectators and safety. The Board of Education discussed safety protocols for indoor activities at their recent meeting. The board has agreed to the following protocols for indoor activities:

- 100% masking
- No food can be consumed inside the event location. For lengthy events, a separate location will be set up for food.
- Physical distancing is recommended at all events.
- If an event is expected to bring in large crowds, pre-registration or ticketing may be required.
- If at any time rates of infection rise or in the event of other direction by state or local health authorities, the district can implement more restrictive protocols.

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Capital Project Public Hearing and Vote

We ask everyone to vote on the next capital project **Tuesday, December 7, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.** at the High School South Gym. A newsletter outlining the project has been sent to residents. We also have a web page with more information: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/CapitalProjectVoteDec7.cfm>.

On Tuesday, November 30, the district will hold a public hearing on the capital project. The hearing begins at 6 p.m. in the High School Multimedia Center. All are welcome.

Digital Equity Survey

The state is requiring districts to survey families regarding access to internet and digital devices at home. One of the reasons the state is seeking this information is for possible assistance to municipalities on internet and broadband access.

We ask that you go to your Parent Portal account (at this link: <https://schooltool.horseheadsdistrict.com/sthhWeb/default.aspx>) and complete the survey for each child in your household. For more information and instructions: <https://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/uploadedimages//Digital%20Equity%20Survey%20Parent%20Portal%20Instructions.pdf>.

If you have questions, please contact your school office. Thank you for your attention to these items and for your continued vigilance against the COVID-19 virus. On behalf of everyone in the Horseheads Central School District, I wish you a happy, healthy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools