

December 29, 2021

Dear Families:

This week, Governor Kathy Hochul announced a statewide goal of testing as many students as possible for COVID when school resumes on January 3. To accomplish this, the state has informed us that it will be providing enough testing kits to test every single student. School districts across the state just learned of this new initiative last evening during a call with the Governor, so there is not a great deal of time to plan.

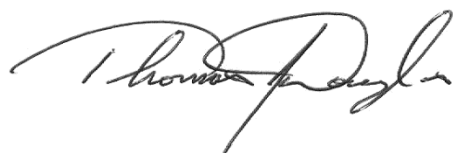
We have been informed that testing kits will be shipped to our local BOCES where they will be sent to each school district for distribution to families. With just a few days until school resume, this distribution cannot happen by the start of school next week as the governor had hoped. The Governor is asking that these tests be supplied as soon as possible to families. Therefore, school districts intend to provide tests to families during the week of January 3. The exact date will depend upon when our shipment of tests is actually received from the State.

To be clear, there is no requirement that families test their children with these test kits, but the state is encouraging all families to do so.

Our plan is to use a drive-through process to safely distribute test kits to interested families. We will distribute kits directly to parents/guardians, with one kit per enrolled student. We will let you know the exact time and location of the test distribution once we find out when the kits will be delivered to us and our plan is finalized.

We anticipate further updates regarding the operation of schools in the new year, including new guidance on the number of days for isolation for positive cases and quarantine for direct contacts. Once we have received specifics and consulted with our local health department to make sure we have a finalized plan, we will share it with parents and guardians. We thank you for your continued support and vigilance as we weather this pandemic together. We share the goal of maintaining a safe school environment for all students to learn, grow, and succeed.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas
Superintendent of Schools