

February 8, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We continue to adapt and update our COVID-19 health and safety procedures in line with current public health expertise. In collaboration with our school district physician and under guidance of the state, the district has updated Student Return to Play and Test to Stay protocols.

Return to Play for Physical Education and Athletics

The Return to Play protocol provides guidance for students who have tested positive for COVID-19 to return to physical activity. We have worked with our district physician to update the process.

When a student tests positive for COVID, the parent/guardian will receive a “Student Assessment for Return to Play After COVID-19” form. This form will assist the school in determining the student’s return to physical activity/athletics, depending upon the severity of the student’s symptoms, if any.

This form and updates to the protocol are on the district website at <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/ReturntoPlayProtocol.cfm>.

Test to Stay

The Test to Stay protocol (TTS) is for students who have been identified as direct contacts. TTS is for unvaccinated students without symptoms and who do not live in the same household as the positive individual (the TTS protocol can begin for these students once the positive individual is out of isolation).

Here are the updates to TTS:

- Students participating in the TTS protocol **are now allowed to attend school-administered and their school-age child care program** in which all appropriate strategies are followed, including masking, distance, ventilation, hand hygiene. This is allowed whether the location is the school or off-site and whether the program includes students from a single or multiple schools.
- Students participating in the TTS protocol **may now participate in school-based extracurricular activities at the school they attend if these activities do not involve students from other schools.** This includes club activities and sports practices, but not sports competitions or other activities with other schools.

These updates may be found on the district website at <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDDTestToStayStrategy.cfm>

Testing

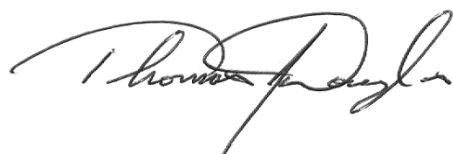
The district will continue to offer home COVID test kits as long as we receive the supply of kits. The state has encouraged districts and families to test students at the end of school breaks. As we head into our President’s Day Recess, we encourage home testing of students prior to their return to school after the break. We will be sending information on the next test distribution once we have finalized the plan. Note that there will be no school February 21-25 for the President’s Day Recess.

continued

Please note that the state requirement for masking in schools remains in place as the courts move through the appeal process. We are prepared to move forward once an official decision has been made and communicated from the state, and we will share that with you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your continued vigilance. It is our hope that we will be able to continue to move forward while keeping our students and staff safe against the COVID-19 virus.

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