

Dr. Thomas J. Douglas Superintendent 143 Hibbard Road • Horseheads, NY 14845 (607) 739-5601, x4201 • Fax (607) 795-2405 www.horseheadsdistrict.com

March 26, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Last Friday, the Centers for Disease Control updated recommendations for schools. Monday, we sent a survey asking for your plan in the event we are able to move to more in-person days of instruction per week. We thank everyone who completed the survey. The information is helping us plan for the time when the state updates guidelines to allow this move to occur. The district has been advocating to the state to revise guidelines for schools to meet the CDC recommendations as soon as possible. We thank everyone who has contacted the state on our students' behalf.

As of the writing of this message, the state has not updated its guidelines for schools, and we have not been informed of a date when the state will do so. The district is formulating a plan so that our schools will be ready if and when the state updates guidelines. <u>You can read our preliminary plan here</u>. Please remember that if the state modifies the CDC guidance, the district will still need to fine tune our plan before we put it into action. We will update the community as soon as we know we can move forward.

The district has been following all recommended safety practices including masking, testing, ventilation, daily health surveys, and assisting staff with vaccinations. To date, the majority of our staff (75%) have been vaccinated. We will continue to follow all best practices so that our schools can safely open to more in-person days of instruction when the state updates school guidelines.

We all can help keep our schools and communities safe by being cautious in our decision-making on unnecessary outings, gatherings, and travel. We are all weary from the last year, but we are still in a global pandemic. We remind parents of hybrid learning students to complete the health survey each day your child attends school. We urge all to continue wearing masks, even if vaccinated, avoid unnecessary travel and outings, and wash hands thoroughly and often.

If you have questions, please contact your school office. Thank you for all you do. Together, we will keep our schools safe.

Sincerely,

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Dr. Thomas J. Douglas Superintendent of Schools