

BLIND BROOK-RYE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

390 NORTH RIDGE STREET
RYE BROOK, NEW YORK 10573-1105
(914) 937-3600

COLIN BYRNE, D.P.S.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

November 10, 2022

Fall Health Concerns

Dear Members of the Blind Brook Community,

In speaking with our school physician, Dr. Engelland, she noted that there are some additional concerns about illness this Fall. In particular, there are three viral illnesses that may combine to be an issue for schools in the United States in general and for our area in particular.

The first virus is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). You have heard that there has been a noticeable increase in cases of RSV in North America this year. It is a relatively common virus but can pose a more serious problem for young children and older adults. Vaccines for RSV are currently being developed. Medical experts suggest staying home if sick, hand washing and having good ventilation.

The second virus is Influenza, commonly known as the flu. Cases of seasonal flu have started earlier than expected this year. This is the same flu that we have been living with for many years and we are fortunate that there are vaccines for the flu. Recommendations for the flu are the same as RSV with the addition of getting a flu shot.

The third virus is COVID. New variants continue to generate and spread. There is an expectation among many in the medical community that COVID cases will rise again during the holidays due to people moving indoors and getting together more frequently. Getting updated COVID booster shots is helpful in mitigating the spread of this virus along with testing, staying home when sick and masking when appropriate.

I am sharing this information not to scare anyone but to make sure that everyone was aware of the news from the medical front. We will continue to monitor the situation in our country and village in regards to health and safety.

Sincerely,
Dr. Colin M. Byrne
Superintendent of Schools