

BLIND BROOK-RYE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

December 22, 2021

COVID Protocols and Vaccination Status

Dear Members of the Blind Brook Community,

At a time when we typically are preparing to enjoy the holidays, we unfortunately find ourselves amidst a resurgence of COVID. Now more than ever it is important for everyone to maintain safe protocols in order to help slow the progress of the virus. I am writing to share some reminders about COVID safety and remind parents about a vaccination opportunity.

The COVID protocols were updated for the 2021-2022 school year, including the decision trees for student exposure to COVID and student illness. The updated decision trees, as well as the entire school opening plan for this year can be found on the [School Opening for 2021-2022 web page](#). Please note that the exposure to COVID decision tree does include what to do if a student is vaccinated. Current Department of Health guidance states that individuals who are vaccinated do not have to quarantine if exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID.

One tool that we have for combatting COVID is getting everyone, including students and staff, vaccinated. Some families have indicated that they are having difficulty getting appointments for their children to be vaccinated. The District was fortunate enough to have been able to collaborate with the Westchester Medical Center on December 21st on offering a dedicated block of time for our students to get vaccinated. The Medical Center offers vaccinations at various locations which can be found on their [vaccination map website](#). I would like to thank community member and parent Michael Rosenblut for connecting the District with the Medical Center.

I also wanted to remind everyone in the community that the District is offering weekly COVID testing on a volunteer basis for our students and staff. The District runs this program in conjunction with Westchester County. Parents who would like their child to take part in this testing program must submit one copy of the attached consent form for each child to the school nurse. Staff members can also submit the form to the nurse's office. Once the building receives the form, they will add the individual to our weekly testing pool. Tests are self-administered and are distributed on Tuesdays with a return date on Thursday.

With the increase in COVID cases in New York I have been asked if there are going to be any changes in access to remote learning. Currently we are providing remote learning opportunities to students who are under an official quarantine order. We will continue with this for the remainder of this week. However, we are aware that things may continue to escalate and are

preparing for the possibility of remote learning when we return. My fervent hope is that we will not need to go into remote learning at any time, but we will be ready if the need arises.

I would like to thank our parents and our staff for working together to provide the best and safest learning environment possible. As things continue to evolve, we will need to continue to collaborate to do the best we can for our students.

Sincerely,
Dr. Colin M. Byrne
Interim Superintendent of Schools

[Parent Consent Form](#)