

# BLIND BROOK-RYE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

January 10, 2022

## **COVID Testing Program**

Dear Members of the Blind Brook Community,

I mentioned in a previous letter that the District has a weekly COVID testing program that students and employees could voluntarily participate in. This program was started at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year and should have continued on through the current school year. This week I have learned that the program has not been running. This is extremely upsetting to me as this was a resource that I personally set up to help reduce the spread of COVID in our schools. I am sorry that I am just finding out about this now as I feel that we have missed months of possible testing.

On Monday morning I will connect with the administration and nursing staff to get this program back on track. We will work to get testing set up for next week, but I need to confirm with the testing company that we will be able to submit samples this week. We will confirm with all parents who submitted a permission form that their child will be tested and will let them know when the testing will happen.

I also wanted everyone to know that, as of Monday, we will have a new, dedicated COVID Coordinator. With issues such as the lapse in the testing program, it became apparent that the COVID Coordinator role could not be an extra responsibility for an existing employee. More information on this role will be coming on Monday, but I wanted the community to know that I will be working closely with this individual to manage all things COVID for the District.

I thank those who reached out about the testing program and I will continue to update the community about COVID processes and protocols.

Sincerely,

Dr. Colin M. Byrne  
Interim Superintendent of School