

BLIND BROOK-RYE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

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COVID Protocols and Testing

Dear Member of the Blind Brook Community,

With the coming of Spring there has been a change that has brought an increase in enthusiasm and optimism to our community members! However, it is important to remember that there are still some steps that need to be taken in order to optimize the safety of our schools. In order to ensure that the remainder of this school year is as meaningful and safe as possible, we are sharing some important elements from the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) guidance on COVID management which are detailed below.

Regardless of vaccination status, if a student, teacher or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 they must isolate for 5 days. On Day 6, students, teachers or staff members can return to school and work, as long as they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving. For days 6 - 10, students, teachers and staff members continue to be required to wear a mask in school, including on the school bus.

If a student, teacher or staff member has been exposed or potentially exposed to COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, they should wear a mask for 10 days. Additionally, the individual who was exposed should be tested for COVID-19 on Day 5 after exposure. Rapid Tests must be taken again 24 hours later.

Exposed individuals, regardless of vaccination status, may remain in school by appropriately wearing a well-fitting mask and undergoing recommended testing and may participate in school-based extracurricular activities. These individuals also may continue to ride the school bus and attend school administered childcare programs.

Whenever someone in school - student, staff or teacher - is determined to have been exposed or potentially exposed, the individual should be tested for COVID-19 as follows:

- Consider testing immediately upon learning of the exposure or potential exposure,
- At least 5 days after the last date of exposure or potential exposure, regardless of vaccination status,
- If the individual is not fully vaccinated and attending or working at school after an exposure, frequent testing from the date of exposure or potential exposure (Day 0) through at least Day 5 should be strongly considered,
- Exclude from school if a test is positive and/or exclude from school and test as soon as possible if symptoms develop,
- Exception: Individuals with lab-confirmed COVID-19 within the past 3 months do not need to get tested unless they develop symptoms.

Guidance from the Westchester County Department of Health supersedes NYSDOH guidance. School districts can also opt to enforce what might appear as stricter rules. The elements of guidance related to mask wearing in schools and testing that have been addressed for clarification.

The guidance from the NYSDOH can be found [here](#).

We continue to follow mitigation strategies, such as social distancing, encouragement of hand washing and sanitizing, enhanced cleaning and disinfection, weekly testing program and at-home tests for anyone who wants one.

We will also continue to communicate with parents and guardians if their child has been identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case while updating our district website.

Thank you for your ongoing support and cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kallie Edge at kedge@blindbrook.org.

Sincerely,
Colin M. Byrne, Interim Superintendent of Schools
Kallie Edge, COVID Coordinator
Dr. Ann Engelland, District Physician