



August 26, 2022

Dear Families,

It has been a busy first month, and we are proud at how well your children have adjusted to being back at school. Classrooms are full of excitement and curiosity, and we have high expectations for their success this year. A critical key to that success is staying healthy and attending school.

As an effort to keep our students healthy, we remain vigilant with our COVID-19 protocols; encouraging handwashing, distancing, and masking as appropriate. We ask that if your child is sick and exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, you keep them home. Until now, students exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms have had to show multiple negative tests before returning to school. **As of Monday, August 29, 2022, however, students will only need to show one (1) negative covid test for verification when sent home or absent for symptoms to be cleared for return.** A second test is still recommended.

Another change we will be making starting Monday will be how and when we notify families of COVID-19 cases at our schools. Due to the high prevalence of COVID-19 cases in our community, parents have been inundated with notifications. **Therefore, we have made the careful decision to limit notifications to families and only send letters when there are multiple linked cases from different households in a classroom, or when there is a high number of cases at a school in a week.** If you would like to track daily cases, you can still do so through the COVID-19 button on our District website at www.nsd.us.

Home isolation is still required for students testing positive for COVID-19; however, they may not be required to isolate for the full ten days. **Following a notification of a positive COVID test, a student qualifies for a return sooner than day 11 if all the following criteria are met:**

- ◆ Student must be symptom free.
- ◆ Parent must pick up a test from school site on day six (6) though 10 and test outside of the school.
- ◆ A negative test result must be shown to office staff.
- ◆ Student must wear a mask through day 10 from first positive test date or symptom onset.

Lastly, all visitors must wear a mask at all times indoors. If you wish to volunteer, you will need to complete a volunteer application and TB test. **Volunteers will also be asked to wear a mask indoors, and will be required to be vaccinated or participate in weekly testing.** Antigen tests may be completed at home, marked with your name and the date, photographed, and submitted directly to the school principal. If you need access to antigen tests for this purpose, please inquire in your school office. We're excited to have our volunteers back!

In continued partnership,

Dr. Leighangela Brady

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Superintendent

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Creating Successful Learners... Now