



DIocese OF ROCKVILLE CENTRE, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

128 Cherry Lane, Hicksville, New York 11801



Office of the
Superintendent

September 5, 2021

Good afternoon,

On September 2nd, the New York State Department of Health issued revised COVID protocols for P-12 schools. The update had three major updates that are communicated below:

- Masks are always required while indoors apart from while eating for anyone over the age of two and regardless of vaccination status. Anyone looking for an exemption to this mask mandate because of a medical or developmental condition must provide documentation from a healthcare provider qualified in the field of this exemption.
- For anyone experiencing a symptom of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, you must complete one of the following in order to return to school:
 - Provide documentation of a negative PCR test result for COVID-19.
 - Remain absent from school for 10 days following the onset of symptoms.
 - Provide a note from a healthcare provider documenting a preexisting condition or alternative diagnosis to COVID-19.
- Any unvaccinated faculty, staff, or personnel working in the school must be tested weekly for COVID-19.

We are all fatigued by the ongoing pandemic, NYS mandates, and abrupt policy changes and will work to communicate any future changes as quickly as possible. We are actively working with our consulting firm and the local health departments to meet these new state mandates and provide a heightened standard of safety and education for our students.

Please understand that we must follow these mandates to avoid financial penalties. If you have any concerns about the policy changes, please voice these concerns to your local state legislators so that they may share with the Governor and Department of Health.

I hope you enjoy a restful Labor Day.

Sincerely,

Dr. Denise T. Smith
Interim Superintendent