

Dear Bluehawk Families,

Hudson City School District will be sending home state-provided at-home COVID-19 test kits with all our students during the opening week of school. Families may use these tests at their discretion. Additional test kits will be available upon request while supplies last.

### **COVID-19 GUIDANCE RELEASED FOR 2022-23**

The CDC issued the [Operational Guidance for K-12 Schools and Early Care Education Programs to Support Safe In-Person Learning](#). Shortly thereafter, a [joint memo](#) was released from NYSED and NYDOH, encouraging school districts to utilize the CDC guidance as a resource for COVID-19 mitigating strategies.

#### **Some Highlights:**

- Universal masking is not required at this time. Individuals are welcome to wear a mask if they choose to. Local health departments have the authority to implement masking requirements should conditions change.
- Schools are no longer required to conduct contact tracing.
- Physical distancing is no longer required.
- Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for 5 days at home (with day 0 being the day of symptom onset or the day tested positive). They may resume attending school on day 6 if they are fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) and their symptoms improve, and they wear a high-quality mask through day 10. CDC isolation guidance indicates that individuals may end mask use before day 10 if they receive two sequential negative tests 48 hours apart.
- Students and staff exposed to a positive case will not have to quarantine. Those exposed should follow CDC recommendations to wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days after the exposure and get tested.
- Schools are no longer required to report daily positive cases to the Department of Health (DOH). In schools that provide point-of-care testing on-site, which Hudson will continue to do with parental consent, we are required to report those positive test results to the DOH as they occur.
- Anyone who is sick should stay home from school. Testing is recommended for individuals with symptoms of COVID-19 as soon as possible.
- Schools are no longer required to conduct screening testing of unvaccinated staff.
- Vaccination is no longer required for students to play a sport.

Our District continues to follow the protocols local and state health departments set forth. We encourage everyone to adhere to them to help keep our buildings a safe learning environment for all. We will continue existing COVID-19 mitigation strategies, including cleaning and disinfection, and increased ventilation in classrooms. Students and staff are also strongly encouraged to practice healthy hygiene and stay home when sick. We will keep you updated if we receive any changes to the current guidance. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's building principal.

Sincerely,

Lisamarie Spindler, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

