

Updates from the District Office

December 30, 2021

Dear BSCSD Parents and Caregivers:

Good afternoon to you all. I wanted to provide a few updates for you relative to the many changes that have been happening with COVID-19 management rules and requirements. Please understand that at this time, there is still a great deal of information that is not clear to us and we will continue to work over the next few days to get the necessary details to provide you with accurate information by Monday, January 3, 2022.

1. **Quarantining time for positive cases and unvaccinated individuals who have been exposed to a positive case:** Based on the [announcement from the CDC](#) earlier this week which significantly reduced the required quarantining time for these two groups, Saratoga County has adopted the five-day quarantining rule for individuals within these two categories. ***Please read the details on the [county website page](#) very carefully to understand what is required depending on your symptomatic and vaccination status.*** Please let us know if you have any questions on this information and continue to report any positive cases by using our COVIDreport@bscsd.org mailbox.
2. **Test-to-Stay:** Next week we anticipate beginning this program so as to minimize the number of students who have otherwise been required to quarantine based on close contact with a positive case. In sum, by periodically testing our students (with parent permission) who are asymptomatic and unvaccinated and who have been in close contact, these students will be allowed to stay in school so long as their testing results are negative and they do not develop additional COVID-19 related symptoms. Vaccinated students who are asymptomatic have not been nor will they be required to quarantine unless symptoms develop. **Please be reminded that any student testing can only be done with parent permission.**
3. **Distribution of rapid tests to students/families:** As you may have seen in the media this week, Governor Hochul will have rapid tests distributed to every school district in the state to allow students to be tested as soon as possible upon their return. There is still a lack of clarity around this, but at this time testing is not a requirement nor have the tests been received yet. They will first be shipped to our BOCES and will be distributed from there. We anticipate that

they will be available by early next week. More to come on this as we have concrete details.

4. **Number of positive cases and question on remote learning:** While the [number of positive cases](#) continues to climb in general and at the high school in particular, we do not anticipate the need to move to remote instruction next week. We closed the high school on Thursday and suspended all athletic activities this week in hopes of reducing the number of close contacts and allowing us to get back to our regular schedule beginning on Monday. I will let you know if any of this changes between now and then.

Wishing you all a healthy and relaxing New Year's weekend.

Ken Slentz
Superintendent of Schools

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