Dear North Collins Central School District Families and Staff,

We are excited to begin another school year with our staff and students! As you may have seen earlier this week, the New York State Education Department and the New York State Department of Health announced <a href="COVID-19 guidance">COVID-19 guidance</a> for PreK – 12 schools across the state. This was a follow up to the <a href="CDC guidance">CDC guidance</a> issued for K-12 schools on August 11, 2022. Thankfully, this guidance paves the way for our students to have a school experience that is much more comparable to that which they experienced prior to COVID-19. There will be no mask/social distancing mandate or requirement for anyone to be tested or vaccinated.

We will rely on parents and children, and our school employees, to monitor any symptoms and stay home when needed and appropriate. We will continue to emphasize appropriate hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, proper building ventilation and cleaning. Follow up information may be sent from each building in the coming weeks to families and staff to clarify any procedural details that we will put in place as we start school.

The Board of Education, our administrative team, and our entire staff remain steadfast in our commitment to ensure that our schools are safe places for students and staff, and our priority is that all students feel safe, known and challenged.

We are all looking forward to welcoming the students coming back to school on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>! As always, thank you for your continued partnership.

Sincerely, Scott Taylor Superintendent of Schools