

September 9, 2022

Dear North Collins Central School District Families,

We enjoyed a wonderful opening week! As a follow up to our communication sent to families on August 24<sup>th</sup> regarding updated NYSED & NYSDOH [Guidance](#), the purpose of this letter is to highlight essential aspects of those guidelines for the best interests of your child and our school community. As always, our top priority is to enable safety among all students, faculty, and staff members.

The most proactive practice is to keep your child home when they are sick - especially if your child has a fever, cough, sore throat, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. In addition, if your child shows any of these symptoms, we strongly encourage your child to take an at-home antigen COVID-19 test. While in school, your child will be sent home by the school nurse if they have a fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea. During the course of the school year, your child may endure a seasonal cough, cold and/or sore throat due to allergies. We still encourage your child to take an at-home test to ensure that they are COVID negative. Our schools have antigen tests for your convenience and we encourage you to contact your child's school when a test is needed.

If your child tests positive, your child will stay home for five calendar days and may return to school the day after the fifth day as long as they are fever free for 24 hours. It is highly encouraged that your child wears a mask for five additional calendar days. If your child has symptoms but tests negative, your child may return to school as long as they are fever free for 24 hours. Your child may have mild symptoms and we encourage you to use your best judgment when sending your child to school. Please keep in mind that we want to keep our school communities healthy - especially during the cold months of the school year.

When it comes to wearing face coverings, there is currently no mandate to the wearing of face coverings. However, students, faculty, and staff may feel safer and more comfortable if they wear a face covering during school hours. Please know that the wearing of face coverings is a personal preference and an individual choice that we will support.

In summary, keep the following points in mind:

- Personal health continues to be a top priority. *If your child is sick, please keep them home.*
- During school hours, if your child has a fever, vomiting, and/or diarrhea, they will be sent home by the school nurse.
- Your child must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school.
- Our schools have a supply of at-home rapid antigen tests. *Please contact your child's school if you need a test.*
- If your child has an abnormal cough and/or sore throat, you are encouraged to have your child take an at-home rapid test.

If you have any questions, please contact your child's school nurse. As well, your child's principal will be able to answer any of your questions and concerns.

Thank you for your continued partnership!

Sincerely,

Scott Taylor