December 31, 2021

Dear Newcomb Central School District Families,

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.

As you may be aware, Governor Hochul recently announced that New York State will be sending free at-home COVID tests to all NYS school districts to distribute to families: https://www.news10.com/news/ny-news/new-york-state-to-receive-more-at-home-covid-tests-for-students/. While we welcome these resources, the announcement came ahead of specific details about the timing of distribution. Test kits will be shipped to our local BOCES (in Saratoga) and will be distributed to school districts from there. We anticipate that tests will be available by early next week. Once obtained, school districts will have the responsibility to distribute tests to all families. Each family is eligible for one test per school-aged child. Use of these tests is encouraged, but not required.

Once NCS receives our supply of rapid tests, we will notify families and they will be made available to pick up for parents who wish to test their child at home.

In collaboration with the Essex County Department of Health, schools in Essex County will also be devising a plan to implement a test to stay procedure. The County’s target launch date for this program is after the Martin Luther King holiday (January 18th, 2022). Protocols and procedures for how the test to stay will work are still in the development stages. More details will be released as we draw closer to the implementation date.

As we welcome students back to school following the holiday recess, please remember to complete the daily COVID-19 screening on Pinpoint. The information we receive daily could help us avoid unnecessary quarantines. If your child(ren) are showing any COVID-19 symptoms (cough, fever, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea, diarrhea, or vomiting) before coming to school, please contact Ms. LaFond in the Health Office.
Thank you for your continued partnership and support. I look forward to continuing our work together in the new year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Christian Fisher
Superintendent of Schools