



Smithtown Central School District

26 New York Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
(631) 382-2006

September 1, 2022

Dear Smithtown School Community,

I hope this letter finds you well and you've enjoyed these summer months! We are excited to meet our new families and eager to welcome back all of our returning students. As I shared with you in August, the summer provides us with a chance to both reflect and plan for the future. We are very grateful to have had the summer to prepare for the new school year rather than engage in pandemic related planning. That said, we have received guidance from the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Education Department that provides districts and schools greater flexibility for the 2022-2023 school year.

The latest guidance includes the following:

- Students and staff members with COVID-19 symptoms must stay home, be tested and communicate with a health care provider for further direction. Additional resources and information can be located on the [SCDHS](#) and [NYSDOH](#) websites. The latest guidance from the NYSDOH can be found [here](#), this site includes a joint letter from Dr. Mary Bassett (Commissioner of Health) and Dr. Betty Rosa (Commissioner of Education), a list of frequently asked questions and answers and additional resources for parents related to COVID mitigation strategies.
- Students are not required to be tested prior to returning to school. However, each school has an ample supply of COVID-19 rapid test kits for distribution for parents in need. Please visit your child's school if you wish to obtain a test kit.
- Daily district reporting on the website will not resume in 2022-2023 and the district is no longer required to report on the NYS COVID Report Card.

In addition, the district will return to pre-pandemic instructional practices for the 2022-2023 school year. We will no longer be utilizing live streaming for students who are out due to a positive diagnosis of COVID-19. Accommodations for homebound instruction will be made for those students with a documented illness of more than 10 consecutive days, which is in alignment with NYSED regulations. When elementary students are home due to illness, parents are encouraged to contact their child's classroom teacher regarding upcoming assignments. At the secondary level, students are encouraged to access class information via their Google Classroom(s).

We look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday, September 6 and hope you enjoy the final days of the summer season!

Sincerely,

Mark Secaur, Ed.D.