

Dear Valley Stream Central High School District Families,

As we prepare to welcome all students back to school on September 2nd for a full-time, in-person learning experience. I wanted to reiterate that the Valley Stream Central High School District will be following the guidance and recommendations provided by the New York State Education Department, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the American Association of Pediatrics (AAP), as well as the previous guidelines issued by the NYSDOH. Following the aforementioned guidance, our District will continue to maintain the health, safety and hygiene protocols necessary to protect the wellness of our students and staff.

- Schools will welcome all students back for in-person learning.
- Schools will return to pre-COVID schedules, including arrival and dismissal times, bell transitions, and locker and locker room use.
- Schools will not require the daily health screening; however, please stay home if you do not feel well!
- Schools will maintain three feet of social distancing where possible, including in the music, chorus and athletic content areas.
- Schools will require all students and staff to wear masks for all indoor instruction and activities. This includes bus transportation. Masks must be worn on buses. Masks will not be required for outdoor activities. The District will continue to provide masks to anyone who needs one.
- Schools will not conduct contact tracing in classes since the wearing of masks is a requirement for indoor activity. Schools will not quarantine healthy individuals if masks are worn.
- Schools will cohort lunch tables so that when masks are not worn during eating, contact tracing will be greatly reduced, and fewer students will need to be quarantined.
- COVID testing will be required for high-risk sports.
- Enhanced COVID cleaning protocols, as established last year, will continue to be followed.

Please keep in mind the previously mentioned plan may need to be adjusted as the District must adapt quickly to changing COVID conditions. However, at this time the protocols above will be in place for all students beginning Thursday, September 2, 2021.

In addition, the Valley Stream Central High School District has again partnered with Rockaway Health Care, a medical group specializing in COVID testing, to offer our students, parents, and staff voluntary testing. Testing will be held on Thursday, September 2, from 7:30 AM to 12 PM in each of our buildings. Testing will also be available on Friday September 10, September 17, and September 24. This is not currently required by the State or as a result of any designation. This is an opportunity to provide peace of mind to our families and staff without having to wait in long lines

The staff at Rockaway Health Care are all medical professionals trained in pediatrics using a very gentle process. Although the PCR test results will take 2-3 days to be processed, you WILL NOT have to quarantine, unless you develop symptoms or are designated a close contact by the Department of Health, as this is considered surveillance testing. This also does not impact your ability to get the COVID vaccine.

Families who would like to be tested will be required to sign up at <http://vschsd.rhc.care/>. There is no fee; however, families will be asked to provide individual health insurance information. If you do not have health insurance, a social security number will be requested to bill the CARES Act for the test. Under no circumstances will families be charged for testing!

Finally, the Valley Stream Central High School District has also partnered with Mount Sinai and will continue to have the Vaxmobile provide COVID vaccinations for our students, staff and community. The Mount Sinai Vaxmobile will be at Memorial Junior High School on Monday August 30, from 10AM-4PM. Please register in advance at:

<https://apps2.health.ny.gov/doh2/applinks/cdmspr/2/counties?OpID=C548570BA7F102C0E0530A6C7C15D173>

Please also remember:

- Please bring proof of eligibility to your appointment (identification showing date of birth).
- You must be available for your second vaccine dose. Bring your vaccination card.
- Please wear masks and short sleeves.

Please enjoy the remaining days of your summer!

Wayne R. Loper, Ed.D.