



December 31, 2020

To the Byram Hills School Community,

Happy 2021! May this new year bring you and your family good health and much joy. I hope that the two week holiday break was good for all. As we turn our thoughts back to school, I want to provide you with a few brief updates. We are excited to welcome your children back to school on January 4th!

New Quarantine Guidance

The NYS Department of Health has indicated a change from the 14 day quarantine to 10 days for those exposed to positive individuals. <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>. Over the past few months we have learned that our practices in school of social distancing have resulted in no known in-school transmissions. We will continue to practice those protocols.

Travel Guidance

Please see the information from the NYS Department of Health on Travel Quarantine Guidance <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>.

With testing before leaving and after returning from a trip to a location designated by the DOH, an individual may reduce their quarantine time. Know that our remote learning options (Google Classroom assignments for K-5, and remote instruction for 6-12) are available for families who have traveled to places requiring quarantine.

The [Governor's Executive Order 205.2](#) provides travel restrictions and testing options. The new testing requirements permit that travelers to New York may avoid the mandatory 10-day quarantine period by testing.

Travelers who were in another state for more than 24 hours:

- Must obtain a test within 3 days of departure from a state that is on the travel advisory.
- Must quarantine for 3 days upon arrival into NY.
- On day 4 in NY, you must obtain another COVID test. If both tests are negative, the individual may exit quarantine.
- Travelers who do not take a COVID test option may end quarantine after 10 days provided they are not symptomatic.

For general inquiries about travel restrictions, contact the NYS COVID-19 hotline at **1-888-364-3065**.



BYRAM HILLS

CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

10 TRIPP LANE ARMONK, NY 10504

Saliva PCR Testing

Thank you to all of the families and staff who have agreed to begin survey testing using the Mirimus saliva-based PCR tests. Testing of 20% per week will help the District for surveillance purposes and to prepare for required zone testing and broad-based PCR testing, should it become available and affordable for home use.

If you agreed to be tested, you will receive a notification from Julie Gallagher, RN, **during the week when you (employee or student) will be provided with a test.** The directions are simple for parents of students in grades K-5 to complete the saliva test and return it. All students in grades 6-12 will test in school. Julie Gallagher will also send the parents of those students a notification **during the week the child will be tested.**

All staff who agreed to test will conduct the tests in school, **when directed by Julie Gallagher.**

Many thanks to Julie Gallagher, RN, and Dan Santora, our athletic trainer, for the facilitation of these tests

The only person who will receive the test result is any person who tested positive (or the parent in the case of a student). Thank you so much for your support!

COVID-19 Vaccine

I have received inquiries from staff and parents asking if the District will require COVID-19 vaccines once they are available. The NYSDOH and the NYS Education Department have not indicated that vaccines will be required or that schools will facilitate their administration. I will notify our community if anything changes.

As for the staff, I will seek to make the vaccine available to anyone who wants it (as we do with the flu shot) as soon as it is available to us.

Welcome back, everyone, and a healthy and happy 2021 to us all!

Sincerely,

Jen Lamia, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools