



BYRAM HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

10 TRIPP LANE ARMONK, NY 10504

February 2, 2022

To the Byram Hills School Community,

I write to you today to provide two dates to obtain more free COVID-19 antigen tests. I am also providing an update on the mask mandate as it pertains to schools, and steps the District is taking to prepare our schools should the mandate be lifted after February 21st.

COVID-19 Antigen Tests

The NYSDOH has distributed another set of antigen tests to Byram Hills. Parents, high school students and employees may retrieve one box (2 tests) per child or employee on the following dates at the District Office:

Monday 2/7/22 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday 2/18/22 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Any individual who needs a test and cannot make those dates or times should email Laura Coughlan at lcoughlan@byramhills.org to pick up a test at the District Office.

I recommend that all students and employees use the test prior to returning to school after the February break.*

Mask Mandate Update

Thank you for your attention last week as we sought to remain in compliance with the late timing of changes to the school mask mandate. The events were challenging for all of us given the short notice. Parents and employees need time to prepare our schools and our children for a potential change to the mask mandate in the future. You are likely aware that the legal issues as well as the mask mandate (now in effect until February 21st) have not been concluded. No one can predict for certain the timeline of events, but we are told by legal counsel that the process may take some time.

Whether masks become optional or not, the District is preparing for a period of adjustment. The principals and I will put processes in place to help everyone manage any transition, subject to any new mandate or guidelines that may arise. It is unpredictable whether high transmission rates in the future or NYSDOH future guidance will prompt the Board of Education to consider different measures, but we will follow the mandate on mask wearing.

It is possible that news of the mask mandate may occur in an untimely way again. Faculty and staff should meet with building administrators during this time about any concerns they have. I encourage parents to have conversations with their children now about your family approach to safety so that your child feels ready for a decision, should they be able to make one, and so that your child has an understanding of why individuals respond differently. Planning now will help to avoid uncertainty for your child within the school environment. We will continue to keep you informed of new information, and we will continue our thoughtful approach to the school experience.

Thank you for your role as parents, employees, and students in the Byram Hills school community and for your respect for the role that each one of us must take to create the best environment for our students.

Sincerely,

Jen Lamia, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

*Some of the tests distributed last week had expiration dates of Feb 2022 or March 2022. Note the extension for the use of these tests has been extended. Tests distributed this week and next week have later expiration dates.

https://accessbio.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CareStart-COVID-19-Ag-Home-Test_Exp-Date-Extension-Notification_01.pdf