



DeRuyter Central School

Home of the Rockets

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Dear Community:

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. We have been working hard to bring as much normalcy as possible. Some important factors have shifted so I thought it prudent to share them with you.

I wanted to alert you to a change that has happened from the New York State Health Department. They have changed their stance on returning to school from needing a Doctor's Note AND a negative COVID test, to a Doctor's Note OR a negative COVID test. That being said, there are still some very important stipulations you need to understand so I wanted to share them in a letter.

This is still the scenario if your child is kept home showing symptoms of COVID-19 or our school nurse sends your child home because of symptoms. In order for your child to come back to school they must:

- Have a note from their physician saying there is an alternate reason for the COVID like symptoms
- OR**
- Have a negative COVID test

Please be aware that a physician may recommend a COVID test and according to New York State, if you refuse to get a test the county health department will consider the child positive. In this case they will have to be isolated as well as any other child in the house, children in the classroom, and their teachers. The county health department will then begin contact tracing. This is not our stance, but a mandate from the health departments. Again this is only if your physician recommends a COVID test and you refuse that test. Any questions in regard to these new regulations should be sent to our School Nurse, Jessica Vadala, or myself.

On a different note, your family should be receiving a Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Card to access your child's P-EBT Food Benefits. All children in our district, no matter what level of family income, are eligible for this because we are part of the Community Eligibility Program which provides free breakfast and lunch to our entire community. Specific details are on our website. If you have any questions please reach out to our Director of Food Service, Brenda Scutt.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you need anything.

Sincerely,

David M. Brown, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools