

GLOVERSVILLE ENLARGED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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David Halloran
Superintendent

January 3, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers:

I hope you and your family enjoyed a safe, relaxing and well-deserved holiday break. COVID-19 continues to evolve and, as a result, we find ourselves adapting to new variants of the virus, as well as to changing public health mandates and recommendations. As individuals, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to keep ourselves and those around us safe. The Gloversville Enlarged School District is committed to keeping our students in school, as we know there is no substitute for full time, in-person learning.

Governor Kathy Hochul recently stated that she, too, wants to keep our schools open for in-person learning. To assist in our efforts to remain open safely and quickly isolate positive cases, New York State has provided every public school in the state with two free at-home COVID-19 test kits for every school age child. Gloversville Enlarged School District now has these kits available. **Any parent or guardian who wishes to receive a free COVID-19 test kit will need to pick it up from their child's school. If you have children in multiple schools, you may pick up the kits in the building that is most convenient for you.**

Self-testing is one of several risk-reduction strategies we can all do to reduce the chances of COVID-19 transmission. Tests may be used regardless of vaccination or symptom status. They are simple and safe to use and a video demonstrating how to properly use the kits is available on our district website and Facebook page. It is important to follow all directions provided by the manufacturer. According to the New York State Department of Health, a positive result from an at-home COVID-19 test should trigger the following steps:

- Immediately self-isolate, even if vaccinated;
- Inform primary healthcare provider, Fulton County Public Health;
- Notify close contacts. (Public Health can assist with this)

Should an individual's symptoms worsen following a positive or a negative result from an at-home test, it is important that you consult your primary healthcare provider or call 9-1-1.

In addition to these free rapid tests, Gloversville Enlarged School District continues to offer optional in-school COVID-19 screening for asymptomatic students through Quadrant Biosciences and SUNY Upstate Medical University. If you have questions about this weekly testing program or would like to provide your consent for your child to be screen tested at school, please contact your child's school nurse.

Knowledge is power and these free COVID-19 testing kits are simply another tool to help us all be more informed, so we may take appropriate steps in the event of infection. Our highest priority remains keeping our schools safe and open for in-person instruction.

Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation in helping us protect all members of our school community. Happy New Year! Let us all hope the end of the pandemic is right around the corner.

Sincerely,



David Halloran
Superintendent of Schools

*Departments of Public Health – Contact Information

Hamilton County	Fulton County	Montgomery County	Saratoga County
518-648-6143 or 518-648-6497	518-736-5720	518-853-3531	518-583-1202 or via <u>Online Form</u>