

February 19, 2021

Dear Garden City School Community,

As this is the final weekend of the February recess, I need to share with our school community that I have received numerous phone calls, emails and photos reporting that students and families have attended large social gatherings, often without wearing masks.

Community members, including students, have shared their concerns regarding the impact of these behaviors on their health and safety and their ability to return to in-person school. They shared pictures that students have posted on social media, including a video of students dancing in crowded quarters without masks. The actions of some, affect the entire school community.

If your child attended a large social gathering (e.g., parties, sleep overs, clubs) or has been in contact with someone who attended a large social gathering over the past ten days, please contact your health care provider for testing. Your child must test negative to attend school.

If your family has traveled out of state or out of the country, you must follow the NYS travel guidelines as per the Governor's Executive Order. New York State asks that all travelers returning to New York from a non-contiguous state, US Territory, or CDC Level 2 or higher country must submit two negative tests prior to being allowed to return to school. However, if these requirements are not met, NYS mandates a 10-day quarantine.

Below is the NYS timeline for testing:

1. The first negative test must be from the location to which you traveled. This test MUST be taken 72 hours prior to returning to New York.
2. Upon return, all travelers must quarantine inside their home for three days.
3. On the fourth day after return, travelers must receive a second negative test (testing cannot be done before the fourth day due to the incubation period of the virus).
4. Test results should be sent to the school nurse of each student's respective building.

For example, if your child is returning from Florida your child must:

- Return to Garden City by Thursday, February 18,
- Quarantine until Sunday, February 21, and
- Get a COVID-19 test on Sunday, February 21.

Your child may return to school on Monday, February 22, with a negative test result.

Here is the link to the NYS Travel Guidelines: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>

If your child has tested positive for COVID-19 over the break, please be sure you have contacted the Nassau County Department of Health at 516-227-9570. Please complete the [COVID-19 reporting form](#) and notify your building principal.

Please note that disciplinary actions may be taken if students have not adhered to the Department of Health COVID safety guidelines to the extent it jeopardizes the health and safety of the entire school community and our ability to continue to provide in-person instruction. This may also include off-campus actions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your building administration.

Sincerely,

Kusum

Kusum Sinha, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools