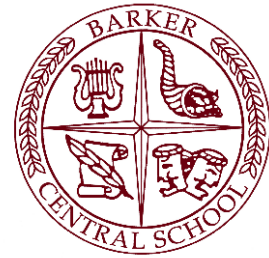


Barker Central School

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Jacob L. Reimer
Superintendent of Schools
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8/31/2022

Dear Barker Learning Community,

The end of summer recess is just around the corner. In just 8 days, our students will be getting on busses and coming back into our hallways and classrooms. After a couple years of continuing to manage the challenges of Covid, it looks like we are going to start the year as close to normal as we have since the fall of 2019.

With this in mind, we wanted to let you know of some changes for the upcoming school year specifically related to Covid. These changes are directly taken from the guidance that was provided by the New York State Department of Health and the New York State Department of Education. Below are the highlights of the guidance:

- Individuals who are exposed to someone with Covid are no longer required to quarantine. However, it is recommended (but not required) for exposed individuals to mask for up to 10 days if exposed.
- Universal masking is not required at this time. However, if circumstances change, local health departments will have the authority to adjust this policy.
- **ALL INDIVIDUALS MAY CONTINUE WEARING MASKS IF THEY CHOOSE.**
- Physical distancing is no longer required at this time.
- Individuals who are exposed to someone with Covid are no longer required to quarantine.
- Contact tracing is no longer required by the District.
- Testing of non-vaccinated individuals is no longer required.
- Districts are not required to offer weekly on-site Covid testing. However, Barker will have at home tests available for families if they need them. Please contact the District Office or the School Nurse if you need a test.
- The District WILL continue to monitor symptoms of staff and students and will continue to send students home as needed if they are exhibiting symptoms. If a staff or student is sent home they must either remain home for 5 days or provide a negative test to return. As per the last year, this process will be managed on a case by case basis by the School Nurses, Sarah McKee and Shelby Watry.

As we look to continue providing the best education in the safest environment possible, it is extremely important to not send your students to school if they are ill. This is one of the more prevalent messages

in the guidance from the state. As such, we ask that if your child is experiencing symptoms to please keep them home until they are feeling better.

We are extremely excited to be returning to school in a short time with most of the prior restrictions related to Covid being eased or gone altogether.

September 6th is just around the corner and we can't wait to see all the smiling faces of our kids as they come back for another great year in Barker!

Please stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JL Reimer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jacob L. Reimer
Superintendent