

The Brooklyn Schools

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Final COVID Update of 2021 December 31, 2021

December 31, 2021

Dear Brooklyn School Community:

I hope that you had a nice holiday with your family and friends. I hope that you found some quiet time too. I am sending an update due to the flurry of information and potential questions.

There is updated information suggesting that N95 masks may be more effective with the Omicron virus. They may not be easy to find, but we know that masking has helped in our schools and it is important to continue to practice masking and physical distance when possible. The Town of Brooklyn will be receiving a shipment of Rapid COVID-19 test kits that they will distribute. They had hoped to distribute them already, at no cost, to residents, but the State's shipment was delayed. This may help families who wish to test determine if they are positive due to exposure and may help to reduce the spread by early detection. Please communicate with the school nurses if there is a positive case so that we can support contact tracing once we return. Beginning next week we will have an additional person who will be assisting Brooklyn with contact tracing. Mr. Cavaliere will be working remotely to support our school nurses in contacting families.

The Connecticut State Department of Education has provided updates. They will continue with in-person learning across the State. The Governor is the only entity that will be permitted to return to remote learning and THERE IS NO PLAN FOR THAT RIGHT NOW. We are required to attend school for 180 days this year and if we have to shut down for any reason, we will add these days onto the end of the school year. At this time, we have not missed any days of school and will get out of school as scheduled. The [2021-22 School Calendar](#) can be found on the website under district information.

For those who are sick or waiting for results to COVID tests. Please continue to follow the mitigation strategies we know work by wearing masks and proper handwashing.

Students and staff return to school on January 3, 2022! We will get through this and our students will continue to prosper with the wonderful education they receive in our schools. Thank you and best wishes for a Happy New Year!

Patricia L. Buell
Superintendent

Mission: The Brooklyn Schools will foster a drive for learning within each student to reach his/her greatest potential. To achieve this mission, the school will continually improve its educational programs and services to meet this community's expectations for a quality education for all.