

PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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September 17, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians

I am writing to give you a few further updates on reopening status in the school district.

First as of Monday, September 20th we will discontinue doing the temperature checks on the buses. It is no longer required and almost all school districts are no longer doing them. We do ask that you continue to complete the online health screener. Most importantly please do not send your student to school if they exhibit any of the COVID symptoms. If anyone in your household is positive for COVID or suspected positive please contact the school as soon as possible.

Second, as I mentioned in a previous message we provided bottled water to students to give parents time to obtain refillable water bottles for their students. As of today, we will no longer be providing the bottled water. The student drinking fountains have been disabled. Students can use the bottle fillers located in each school to fill their water bottles. Students are encouraged to have water at their desk.

Regarding vaccines, I am pleased to report that at least 64% of the total school staff have been fully vaccinated. We have additional staff that are in the process of completing their two-shot series.

Currently students ages 12 to 17 are eligible for the Pfizer vaccine. Everyone 18 years of age and older are eligible for Pfizer, Moderna and the one-shot Johnson and Johnson vaccine. We will have our next vaccination clinic this Thursday evening, September 23rd in the high school cafeteria. Vaccinations will be scheduled at 6:30pm. We will have a link for scheduling vaccinations out early next week.

Regarding testing of students for COVID, the State is requiring that students be offered COVID testing **with parent consent**. Parents who would like their student tested can do so at the Thursday clinic. I will have instructions on how to schedule those tests also early next week.

Finally, on the subject of mask breaks. The staff has been instructed to offer mask breaks to students once every hour or class period. I believe that most of our staff is doing so. Today, I sent an email to all staff reemphasizing that requirement. I would like to know directly from parents if this is not being followed.

Thank you again for helping us to get through these difficult times.

Be well and stay safe,

Dr. Martin D. Handler
Superintendent

MDH/jwt