



Akron Central School District

In Pursuit of Excellence

Patrick D. McCabe
Superintendent of Schools

December 30, 2021

Dear Akron Central School District Parents, Students, and Staff:

On Tuesday, Governor Kathy Hochul and NYS Health Commissioner Mary Bassett announced a statewide goal of having as many students as possible tested for COVID-19 immediately following the holiday recess. To accomplish this, New York State will be providing testing kits for every single student.

It is our understanding that Erie 1 BOCES anticipates receiving tests for Akron and the other component Districts in our area on either Friday or Saturday of this week. From that point, the BOCES will inventory the tests and distribute them to school districts. While the Governor is asking that these tests be supplied as soon as possible to families, she recognizes that this may not be possible until *at least* January 3, 2022.

To be clear, there is no requirement that families test their children with these test kits, but they are encouraged to do so as part of a wider strategy to minimize the spread of the virus and keep schools open 5 days per week for in person learning. Families that choose to participate in this at-home testing program are asked to report a *positive result only* to our school nurses.

To implement the distribution process in a timely manner, the following plans have been developed:

Plan A: If tests are received before midday Saturday, January 1st, a robo call will be sent out by 5:00pm in the evening indicating that parent pick up of test kit(s) is available on Sunday morning, January 2nd, from 9:00-11:30am in the High School Gym. Parents may park in the HS lot and use door #37.

Plan B: If tests are not received by the District until Monday, January 3rd, (or if Sunday is not an option for some parents) the distribution process will be:

- Parent pick up of test kit(s) on **Monday, 1/3/22** from **4:00-7:00pm**
- **Elementary Students:** ES Gym - please park in ES/MS lot and use door #7
- **Middle/High Students:** MS Cafe - please park in ES/MS lot and use door #22
- If you have children in more than one building, you may choose either location.

Important Notes:

- If these days and times are not convenient for you, on Monday, you may contact the main office of your child's school to make alternate arrangements.
- If you would like to pick up test kits for Akron students who are not your own, a written note from their parent/guardian is required.

In a related matter, in an effort to reduce the number of students required to quarantine after being identified as a close contact of a positive case, the District is making preparations for a "Test To Stay" program. At this time, we are awaiting final authorization and supporting details from the Erie County Department of Health regarding the program. Information will be provided when it becomes available.

We look forward to having students return to school next week and are eager to support them in their academic journey. As always, thank you for your ongoing partnership during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,
Patrick D. McCabe