



Excellence in Education
ROCKVILLE CENTRE SCHOOLS
Board of Education • 128 Shepherd Street • Rockville Centre • New York 11570

John O'Shea, President • Christine Ferazani, Vice President • Kelly Barry, Secretary • Tara Hackett • Erica Messier

July 15, 2021

Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Howard Zucker MD, JD, LLM, Commissioner
NYS Department of Health
Corning Tower
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Zucker,

We, the members of the Rockville Centre Board of Education, write to urge you to adopt the updated Centers for Disease Control guidelines to permit the return of in-person education for our students this fall and allow local educational authorities to develop and implement layered prevention strategies based upon local conditions, community transmission rates and vaccination levels for the prevention of the Covid-19 virus. In Nassau County, the vaccination rate is well above 70% which is the threshold that New York State has suggested will permit the return of “normal” activity. We ask that you do not prevent local communities from instituting the CDC recommendation that fully vaccinated individuals be permitted to attend school without wearing a mask.

Our students have struggled with the challenges presented by the global pandemic for the past year. Isolation and remote learning, the loss of athletics, arts and other extracurricular activities have not only deprived them of educational opportunities but resulted in significant mental stress. We firmly believe that local school boards are better positioned to design a program that protects our students and staff from the virus while also addressing the mental well-being and educational development of our students. It is time to open the path to recovery by making sound, scientifically based decisions that afford the children of New York the education they need and deserve.

Sincerely,

Rockville Centre Board of Education