



Health & Wellness Report of June 14, 2021

Wrapping up “Health & Wellness” for the 2020-21 School Year:

- **Covid-19 Procedures & Protocols** continue to be a major issue being dealt with in our schools, as there has been conflicting information and interpretations from the CDC & New York State, as to when masks need to be worn. We recently received clarification from the Governor’s Office regarding this issue, which is basically masks are no longer required outside of the school building, but are a must inside the building. This has led to some serious pushback from parents, school administrators, school boards and even some elected officials. In fact a “unmask our children” rally is scheduled for tomorrow in Hauppauge @ 11:00am (a similar rally was held last week in Nassau County). While there has been concerns about students needing to wear masks in unairconditioned buildings in mid-late June when temperatures can be in the mid- eighties, with only a couple of weeks left in the school year, the big push is to get a firm resolution prior to school resuming in September. The NYS PTA has released their position in this matter calling on the CDC to review their direction in this matter on a State by State basis, as New York State has an extremely low positivity rate at this time. NYS PTA has established a number of priorities that need to be addressed, with a focus on getting all school buildings open for all students this September and fully supports making the wearing of masks in school a “parental decision”. If anyone would like a copy of the NYS PTA position and/or the latest directive from the Governor’s Office, please let me know and a copy will be emailed to you.
- **Children’s Vaccines** – with at least one vaccine now approved for children as young as 12, testing is now underway in developing a Covid vaccine for those 11 and under. At this time, there is no definitive time frame as to when these clinical trials will be concluded and an approval requested. In an effort to get as many children vaccinated as possible, New York State has set up a lottery that would grant a four year scholarship to any public college in New York State. In the first two of five scheduled drawings there were two winners in Nassau and one in Suffolk. There will be ten winners drawn in each round. Anyone aged 12 to 17 yrs old is eligible.
- **Children’s Mental Health** – while it appears that we are on the verge to “getting back to normal”, (or at least fairly close) there are going to be some serious after effects from the pandemic that need to be immediately addressed, first and foremost being mental health. Prior to the pandemic, our School Superintendents were stating that there was a need for more money & resources to battle the increasing number of mental health issues that they were dealing with in our schools. Unfortunately, the isolation (& in some cases missed milestone events like class trips & proms) has exacerbated the situation with increased cases of students suffering from anxiety and/or depression, in particular with our secondary school children. Experts have stated that its difficult to predict who will be the most vulnerable to long term metal health issues and that parents should be monitoring their children closely.

Should anyone have any questions regarding this month’s report, please don’t hesitate to contact me via email at: gerardbringmann@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted ... Gerry Bringmann

