



Wishing you and your families the very best as 2021 comes to a close and looking forward to a happier and healthier 2022. I am sharing a couple of informational updates to keep you in the know and also remind you of ways that you can continue to assist our learning community through COVID-19.

1. Please enjoy the holiday season. **Travel safely** and I encourage you to **continue with COVID-19 safety mitigation protocols**. If an Ardsley student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19 during the break via ANY COVID-19 test please report it on the following [COVID-19 Positive Case survey](#) on the district website. This will allow us to capture that data, more importantly to support you and your family. Any positive cases will continue to be updated on this [Positive COVID-19 cases table](#) which is also linked to the district home page.
2. We were approved by the Westchester County Department of Health to **administer gateway surveillance testing for any students, faculty, and staff who would like to participate after the break**. I recently sent a blast about this opportunity. In short, the COVID-19 saliva tests will be administered during the first two Wednesday's of January. This is an extra mitigation strategy. If registered already on Questar there is no reason to re-register. For any new person desiring to participate please complete the three easy steps below by Friday, 12/28/2021 at noon to assure that we will have the necessary amount of tests. Surveillance testing will continue throughout 2022 every week. [See this link for the 3 simple steps to register](#)
3. [I want to be clear that there](#) is **NO INTENTION to shift to remote instruction during the upcoming 2022 year**. Over the past week we had a spike in cases and will continue to monitor those numbers closely. I will continue to stay informed,

monitor cases, enhance mitigation strategies, advocate for a defined Department of Health (DOH) metric to make adjustments, and seek government approval of unfettered testing to help keep our schools safe and fully operational. As stated previously, I do not foresee a need to shift to remote instruction in 2022. If by chance there is a 1) tremendous surge in COVID-19 cases, 2) a variant that is far worse than omicron, 3) an inability to staff our schools safely we will enact a swift plan to address the changing conditions. I am optimistic that after this surge we will be in a much better place and regain a better sense of normalcy. Thank you for your role in helping us through these really challenging times!

Best wishes for a happy and healthy new year!

With sincere gratitude,

Dr. Ryan Schoenfeld