



RIVERHEAD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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July 21, 2021

Dear Governor Cuomo
County Executive Bellone
Senator Palumbo
Assemblyman Thiele
Assemblywoman Giglio
Legislator Krupski
Legislator Fleming
Supervisor Romaine
Supervisor Aguiar
Supervisor Schneiderman

With the 2021-22 school year officially begun and September's return to in person instruction quickly approaching, we are writing today to implore that you take swift and decisive action on two important matters.

As we look to the return to school in September, we ask that you continue to provide us with updated guidance that allows masks to remain optional for all students K-12 and return local control over the implementation of such decisions to our school districts, under the guidance of the Suffolk County Department of Health. This is no longer a one-size-fits-all situation; protocols should be adapted to meet the needs of local communities. Please afford all school districts that ability by working within our counties to monitor and address safety measures on the local level.

Lastly, we urge you to continue to keep the COVID-19 vaccination as an option for individuals, not a mandate or as a precursor to attend school. We believe that the decision to receive the vaccination should be individual and at the discretion of our families, with consultation from their health professionals. Again, the focus should be on local control.

We thank you in advance for your consideration and support on this matter, as we hope to work together to return to more routine daily operations and provide a sense of normalcy for our students, staff and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Laurie Downs'.

Laurie Downs, President

On behalf of the entire Riverhead Central School District Board of Education