



September 16, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am writing to share important updates regarding Green Chimneys' student sick policy and diagnostic testing.

On September 2, 2021, the New York State Department of Health shared updated requirements for return to school testing and screening of students.

### **Requirements for Return to School Testing**

- All students, teachers, and staff with new or worsening symptoms of COVID-19 must be excluded from work/school, regardless of vaccination status. In order to return to school, students must either provide a negative COVID test result OR remain excluded from school for a minimum of 10 calendar days from symptom onset. The Department of Health asks that PCR tests be used to rule out COVID.
- Green Chimneys is obligated to provide diagnostic testing either on grounds or in the community to students who are either symptomatic or exposed to COVID-19. However, students can only be tested with parent consent, and will need to be picked up from school while awaiting results. Results are typically received in 24-48 hours.
- Students who can provide an alternate diagnosis from their health care provider, such as laboratory confirmed influenza, strep, or other chronic condition, may be excluded from the testing requirement.

### **Upcoming Mandatory Staff Testing**

Over the last few months we have received many phone calls and emails from families who are concerned about our staff's vaccination status. While we educate and encourage our staff to take the highest level of precaution, we cannot [currently] mandate vaccines for our staff. We are working closely with our state and local health departments, and will be implementing mandatory testing of unvaccinated staff in the coming weeks.

We will send any updates or additional information as needed. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 845.279.2995 ext. 100.

Thank you and stay well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Placke".

Ed Placke, Ed.D.  
Executive Director