

**WHITEHALL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**87 Buckley Road**  
**Whitehall NY, 12887**

December 30, 2021

Good Morning,

As you may be aware, throughout the holiday recess, the NYS Department of Health, Governor Hochul and State Health Commissioner Dr. Bassett have all released guidance memos that address potential new protocols related to school districts and COVID 19. Included within these messages was a statement that over 37 million rapid tests have been ordered by the state and that these tests will be delivered to each school district for use and distribution.

At this time our region has not received any of the ordered tests and we do not anticipate receipt until early next week. Once we receive the tests, additional information on how the tests will be utilized and distributed will be provided.

It is important to note that a negative test is not required for students to return to school on Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. However, if your student is displaying any COVID-like symptoms or is not feeling well, students, faculty and staff are still required to follow the NYS DOH algorithm for return to school.

As always, I continue to appreciate your patience and support as we work through this challenging time together.

On behalf of the district administration, faculty, staff, and Board of Education I would like to wish everyone a safe, healthy, and happy new year.

Patrick M. Dee  
Superintendent of Schools