



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE  
Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc  
*Commissioner*

February 18, 2021

To: Mayor Bill de Blasio  
Chancellor Richard Carranza

Re: In-person learning, school activities and COVID-19 testing

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene recognizes the extraordinary and unprecedented challenges the New York City school district has faced during the COVID-19 public health emergency. To keep school buildings open for in-person instruction and allow the City to continue to effectively monitor and respond to the pandemic, it is essential that COVID-19 testing of in-person students and staff continue in schools, in accordance with current New York City Department of Education guidance and protocols.

Therefore, in response to guidance issued by the New York State Education Department, parent/guardian consent for COVID-19 testing of students shall continue to be a condition for participation by students opting for in-person learning or other in-person school activities.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment as we continue to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dave A. Chokshi", written over a horizontal line.

Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc  
Commissioner