



Binghamton City School District

164 Hawley Street
PO Box 2126
Binghamton, NY 13902-2126
(607) 762-8100
Fax: (607) 762-8110

December 20, 2021

Dear Binghamton Families,

We head into the upcoming winter recess with a significantly higher number of COVID-19 cases than Broome County was experiencing at the same time last year. While, fortunately, we now have the vaccine to help us combat this virus, we must remain vigilant for the health and safety of our students, employees, and the larger community.

The Binghamton City School District is pleased to be offering testing opportunities to all students and staff, on a completely voluntary basis, both before and after our winter recess. Rapid testing will take place in all buildings on a walk-in basis on **Wednesday, Dec. 22** and **Monday, Jan. 3**. Appointments are not necessary, and testing will be available until 12:30 p.m. both days. We strongly encourage you to take advantage of these free testing opportunities, regardless of your vaccination status. Parents must request that their student be tested. To request testing please contact your child's school nurse.

Like some of our neighboring school districts, we feel it necessary to temporarily limit the number of spectators at our athletic events, in anticipation of a holiday spike in COVID cases. Until further notice, each student athlete will be allowed two adult spectators per athletic event. We will continue to consider whether limiting attendance remains necessary throughout the next several weeks. Junior Varsity players may also attend Varsity games for their sport. Spectators can watch Binghamton High School home games LIVE via our [BCSD Athletics YouTube page](#).

Additionally, several area schools have had to place their buildings into remote instruction because they did not have enough bus drivers or teaching staff to support students. While we are optimistic that our testing program assists with mitigating the impact of COVID on our school community, we encourage you to put a plan in place in the event your school needs to shift to remote instruction.

We appreciate you doing your part to promote a healthy school community throughout the holiday season.

Educating, empowering and challenging all students to become productive, global citizens through innovative approaches to learning.