



May 26, 2020

Dear Families,

Your health and safety, and the health and safety of all New Yorkers, is our top priority. The Department of Education (DOE) continues to work alongside the rest of the City to keep the city's students, families, and staff members safe, healthy, and informed as the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic evolves. Today, we are writing with an important update in the continued fight against the disease.

As part of the work to defeat COVID-19 and reopen New York City, the City must provide widespread testing so that, in every community, everyone who needs a COVID-19 test can get one. In order to expand testing access citywide, 100 diagnostic testing sites for COVID-19 will open across the five boroughs in the coming weeks. Every City agency, including DOE, has vetted their buildings for suitability for this effort. Some of the spaces that will be used as testing sites are DOE spaces.

The Leavitt Field Parking Lot has been identified as a COVID-19 testing site, opening in early June. Testing will be restricted to the parking lot.

Every testing site across the city, including The Leavitt Field Parking Lot, will operate seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Each day, NYC Health + Hospitals will clean and disinfect the sites in accordance with established protocols and standards, including cleaning bathrooms, sweeping and mopping floors, cleaning and wiping down all areas used for medical testing, cleaning all surfaces that may have come in contact with medical providers, and performing turnover cleaning between tests.

Testing sites will be in use until mid-August. Prior to the school building reopening for the 2020–2021 school year, NYC Health + Hospitals will conduct a deep cleaning using established infection-control standards; we will also conduct environmental and quality testing to ensure school buildings are safe before school communities return.

We will continue to partner with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and NYC Health + Hospitals in the battle against COVID-19. We will also continue to follow all guidance and take all appropriate health and safety measures. Nothing is more important than the health of our students, families, and staff, and we will work diligently with our City partners to make sure our school buildings are safe for use when they reopen. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your principal or FACE@schools.nyc.gov.

Working together, we will overcome this disease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Karin Goldmark'.

Karin Goldmark
Deputy Chancellor, School Planning and Development