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**For Immediate Release: Monday, September 13, 2021**

**Important Reminders for Parents and Community Members  
Regarding COVID**

With less than a week into the 2021-2022 school year, we have seen an extremely high number of COVID positive cases. The Cayuga County Health Department and our school communities are pleading with parents and guardians **to keep children home when they are sick or exhibiting any COVID symptoms.** As a reminder, some COVID symptoms mimic allergies. Even if your child is exhibiting allergy symptoms, please have them stay home, have them tested and do not send them to school until you have the result. It takes everyone to do their due diligence to keep our children in school where they learn best.

If you know you've had exposure to a positive case, please monitor your symptoms and limit your interaction with others. Seek testing and health care, if appropriate.

Due to the extraordinarily high volume of COVID cases in Cayuga County, we want to make the public aware that there may be a 4 to 5 day lag in contacting people who have tested positive. We are working diligently as we identify school children and then address other cases from their date of test. Please do your part if you have tested positive and stay home until a tracer contacts you. If you self-tested with a positive result; keep the test, label the test with your name, date tested and date of birth and call the Health Department. We will put you in the queue to return your call. As always, seek professional health care if your symptoms merit.

As we have expressed throughout the past year and a half of this pandemic, it takes everyone to do their part in slowing the spread of this highly contagious virus.

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