

August 11, 2021

Dear Members of the Henry Viscardi School Community,

As the start of school quickly approaches, please allow this message to serve as a brief update as to the status of the reopening of school in September.

Late last week, Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York State Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker informed school districts that they will not be providing guidance for reopening schools in September but recommended that schools and school districts follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and local health departments. After weeks of being told that guidance was forthcoming, this information sparked widespread confusion and uncertainty for many communities.

Yesterday, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) announced it is in the process of developing a summary guidance document to aid schools and districts as they prepare for the 2021-2022 school year. This document will be based on CDC guidelines and guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics. This is necessary in light of the continued absence of health-related school opening direction and assistance from the Governor's Office and the State Department of Health.

The Henry Viscardi School is committed to opening for full-time in-person instruction in September. However, HVS has not yet finalized its reopening plan, as we anxiously wait for guidance from the New York State Education Department. We continue to work closely with our local Nassau County Department of Health to ensure that whatever the course of action, the health and safety of students and staff always remains the priority.

Sincerely,

*Angelo Zegarelli*

Head of School