



Winchester Public Schools

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Melony M. Brady-Shanley – Superintendent of Schools

November 5, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

This letter serves to inform you of updated information related to COVID-19 vaccination and quarantine protocols.

Earlier this week, the CDC approved the emergency use authorization of Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine for children who are between the ages of 5 and 11. In the coming weeks, Winchester Public Schools will host a COVID-19 vaccine clinic in partnership with the Torrington Area Health District. I will forward additional information regarding this clinic when it becomes available.

As of Thursday, November 4, 2021, Connecticut is implementing a "Screen and Stay" program. This program will support direct contacts of a COVID-19 case to remain in school as long as they are asymptomatic. Data has shown that in-school transmission is very rare throughout Connecticut. This program will help to lessen the impact of quarantine on families and ensure that students continue in-person learning when they are healthy.

Important information related to "Screen and Stay" and quarantining protocols.

1. If you are identified as a "direct contact" you may qualify for the "Screen and Stay" program. Parents/Staff members will be required to submit a daily attestation using this form by 7 AM. If they form is not submitted by 7 AM, the student/staff member may not report to school/work.
FORM -
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1gRvy0czxiI_RZ2R4qXEhU_rHjxNatq0gcLfbJZTb43o/edit?usp=sharing
2. The requirements to participate in "Screen and Stay" are:
 - a. My exposure was exclusively during the school day (no extracurricular or social contact);
 - b. My exposure, if indoors or on a school bus or other school transportation, and both the contact and the COVID-19 case were consistently masked during the exposure even if brief unmasked periods (e.g., snack time, cafeteria) occurred, as long as six feet or more of space was consistently maintained;
 - c. My exposure, if outdoors, the individuals were masked or unmasked but were supervised by staff (e.g., mask breaks, physical education, recess);
 - d. As a close contact I must remain asymptomatic (any symptoms revert to regular isolation/quarantine).
3. You are not eligible to participate in the "Screen and Stay" program based on the following:
 - a. My contact with a case happened during interscholastic or other athletic activities (other than during supervised outdoor physical education and recess);
 - b. My contact occurred during social interactions or similar activities outside of school (e.g., birthday parties, dining out, sleepovers);
 - c. My contact was where the individuals were not consistently and correctly wearing masks indoors and a six-foot distance was not maintained;

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- d. My contact occurred between members of the same household (i.e., the contact lives with the case);
 - e. If, upon my return to school, the contact cannot consistently and correctly wear a mask.
 - f. I have any symptom(s) of COVID-19.
4. If you are a positive COVID-19 case or are symptomatic, you are required to follow the 10-day quarantine protocols.

This letter will be posted to our COVID-19 Informational Page on the Winchester Public Schools website.

Sincerely,



Melony M. Brady-Shanley