

January 9, 2022

Good morning Wappingers CSD Community,

As we indicated in our [correspondence on January 7th](#), we will continue to provide updated information regarding the Wappingers Central School District COVID protocols as necessary. As a point of reference, the [CDC](#) issued updated COVID quarantine and isolation guidelines. Additionally, on January 4, 2022, the [New York State Department of Health issued the Interim Updated Isolation & Quarantine Guidance](#) to align with the CDC in response to the omicron surge.

In response to the release of the NYS Interim Guidance as noted above the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DCDBCH) shared their recommendations for school districts to follow pertaining to the changing definitions of who is considered 'fully vaccinated' from the CDC and NYS guidance listed above. [It is the recommendation of Dutchess County that quarantine requirements for fully vaccinated staff members not be enforced pending the following interim steps:](#)

- Request necessary information about booster eligibility among staff,
- Conduct or refer staff to booster clinics,
- Upscale Test to Stay operations to provide alternative to quarantining, and
- Await forthcoming New York State and CDC guidance specific to P-12 instruction.

Therefore, in accordance with the combined recommendations from the DCDBCH and the released guidance from NYS the Wappingers Central School District will follow effective Monday, January 10th the following protocols related to individuals who test positive & effective quarantine protocols:

For isolation and quarantine of the general population, follow the CDC recommendations ([CDC Updates and Shortens Recommended Isolation and Quarantine Period for General Population](#)) as follows:

- **For individuals who test positive:**
 - Isolate for 5 days, where day 0 is the day of symptom onset or (if asymptomatic) the day of collection of the first positive specimen resulting in a COVID positive indicator.
 - If asymptomatic at the end of 5 days or if symptoms are resolving, isolation ends and the individual should wear a well-fitting mask while around others for an additional 5 days.
 - Individuals who are moderately-severely immunocompromised should continue to follow standard (i.e., not shortened) [Isolation Guidance](#).

- Individuals who are unable to wear a well-fitting mask for 5 days after a 5-day isolation should also follow standard (i.e., not shortened) [Isolation Guidance](#).
- **If exposed to a COVID-19 positive case, quarantine as follows, where day 0 is the last date of exposure:**
 - If not fully vaccinated, quarantine for 5 days and wear a well-fitting mask while around others for an additional 5 days. (See below **TestTo Stay**)
 - If fully vaccinated ([as amended by the DCDBCH memo](#)), no quarantine is required but these individuals should wear a well-fitting mask while around others for 10 days after the last date of exposure.
 - If symptoms appear, quarantine and seek testing. **In this situation, quarantine would end when the test is negative.**
 - If testing is not done, isolate according to the [guidance above](#).
- **Updated Test to Stay (TTS) 1/10/2022:**
 - TTS is only for those deemed in close and proximate contact to an index case and are not fully vaccinated but are asymptomatic.
 - Parents choosing to keep their children in school via our test to stay program will only need to have their children test on each school day over the new five day quarantine period.
 - Staff may also continue to participate in TTS on each school day over the new five day quarantine period.

These changes will be in effect starting Monday, January 10, 2022. In short, all individuals identified as needing to quarantine due to being a close and proximate contact to an individual who has tested positive (and who meet the criteria above) will now be required to quarantine for only 5 days instead of 10.

Any individual identified as having to isolate or quarantine in the past week can also follow this new protocol, so long as they meet the criteria above, and they may return to school on what is considered day 6 of their previously assigned 10 day quarantine period.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic, and continue to provide as much in person instruction as possible for our students, in a safe school environment!

Thanks,

Dr. Dwight Bonk
Superintendent of Schools