



North Canaan Elementary School

Dr. Alicia M. Roy, Principal

90 Pease Street, North Canaan, CT 06018 www.nceschool.org 860-824-5149

November 16, 2021

Dear Families:

On November 4, Governor Lamont announced a new protocol, "[Screen and Stay](#)", to be used when **unvaccinated individuals** in schools have been exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19. After a review of over a year's worth of data collection, the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) has determined that the likelihood of in-school transmission of COVID-19 is extremely low, due to the presence of a vaccine for students aged 12+, the use of transmission mitigation practices such as wearing face masks, social distancing and frequent hand-washing and improvements to school ventilation systems. With the recent release of a vaccine for children who are five to eleven years old, an extra layer of protection will be added, thereby increasing the safety of the school environment. Therefore, the CT CPH has decided that, given the safety of the school environment combined with the importance of children being in school for in-person instruction, it is prudent to relax quarantine restrictions at this time. **Since the incidence of COVID-19 in all Region 1 towns is relatively low and because there has been no in-school transmission to date in this school year, all Region 1 schools are adopting the "Screen and Stay" protocol effective immediately.**

The Region 1 Safety Protocols, beginning on page two of this letter, have been modified to include the new "Screen and Stay" procedures established by the CT DPH. Please note the following:

- "Screen and Stay" applies to **unvaccinated** students and staff who have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 **while in school**.
 - The protocol includes only COVID-19 exposure **during the school day**. Please take note of the situations where "Screen and Stay" will **not** apply:
 - having a close contact **outside of school** (e.g., at a party or sleepover, a household contact, etc.)
 - in a situation indoors where **masks were removed and 6 feet of spacing was not maintained** (e.g., in the cafeteria, in the classroom during a snack period, mask break, etc.)
 - during **extracurricular or other activities** outside the regular school day (e.g., sports, before or after school care, etc.)
 - Failure to follow the daily screening requirement included in the protocol will result in requiring students and staff to quarantine at home, rather than come to school.
- The existing protocol for vaccinated students and staff remains unchanged.

Please read the new protocol changes (highlighted in yellow) and let us know if you have any questions.

The school nurse and/or the principal will continue to contact students who are close contacts of staff or students who have tested positive for COVID-19 and will assist families and staff in following the protocols. **As always, if a member of your household tests positive or is**

presumed positive for COVID-19, please keep unvaccinated students at home and contact the school nurse.

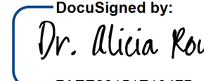
Thank you for carefully reviewing the information included in this letter. We will be able to continue to relax practices as long as our case rates remain low. We thank you for following all of the mitigation practices to keep our students and staff safe and school. Most importantly, **it remains extremely important that anyone who is experiencing COVID-like symptoms should not come to school until cleared to do so by a healthcare provider.**

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

 Lisa Carter
 EA3641308E6A444...

Lisa Carter
 Superintendent of Schools

DocuSigned by:

 Dr. Alicia Roy
 7AEE28151E1947B

Dr. Alicia Roy
 North Canaan Elementary School

2021-2022 COVID-19 Safety Protocols

Task/Situation	Protocol
Daily Screening for COVID-19	Please continue with daily screening for COVID-19 symptoms using the DAILY HOME SCREENING FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF as a resource. Students and staff should stay home if experiencing any symptoms and call the school to report the illness.
COVID-19 Communication	Please continue to inform the school nurse if you or anyone in your home has tested positive for COVID-19 or is being tested for COVID-19. Please be prepared to provide the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Date of the onset of symptoms ○ Date of test ○ Vaccination status ○ Contact with any other school families within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms
Individuals who test positive for COVID-19:	Must isolate for ten days - it is not possible to test out of quarantine or isolation after a positive test result or a known COVID close contact when not vaccinated. Individuals may return to school and/or normal activities on the eleventh day if their symptoms are improving and they have been free of fever for two days.
Quarantining after : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Close Contact with a COVID-Positive Individual, or ● Someone Suspected of Having COVID 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fully vaccinated individuals: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. No Symptoms (Asymptomatic) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. No quarantine if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19; however: ii. They must be tested within 5-7 days after exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If the test results are negative, no further action is required. 2. If the test results are positive, the individual has to begin to quarantine and isolate from others in the home and inform the school nurse.

b. With Symptoms

- i. **If the slightest symptoms occur**, then the individual has to begin to isolate and consult with a healthcare provider to arrange for a PCR test and inform the school nurse.
 1. If the test results are negative, the individual should remain at home until they are symptom free and have had no fever for two days. No one should come to school when feeling ill, even if they do not have COVID-19.
 2. If the test results are positive, the individual has to begin to quarantine and isolate from others in the home for ten days and notify the school nurse.

2. Unvaccinated individuals or those who are undergoing the vaccination process to become fully vaccinated:

- a. Close contacts **in school** will be identified and contacted by the school nurse or principal
- b. Individuals identified as close contacts may remain in school as long as they comply with the following tasks:
- c. A daily check is required by all close contacts to ensure that the exposed individual is not experiencing any of the following symptoms:
 - i. Fever (100.4 or higher) or chills
 - ii. Cough
 - iii. Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - iv. Fatigue
 - v. Muscle or body aches
 - vi. Headache
 - vii. New loss of taste or smell
 - viii. Sore throat
 - ix. Congestion or runny nose
 - x. Nausea or vomiting
 - xi. Diarrhea
- d. **Per the CT DPH, families must complete this form as soon as a close contact is identified.**
 - i. **The form only has to be completed ONE TIME on the first day of close contact, but the screening protocol has to take place until the deadline that has been assigned by the school nurse.:**
 1. [NCES - Affirmation of Intent to Comply with Screen and Stay Requirements](#)
 2. A school-specific link for each form will be sent to each close contact by the school nurse.
 3. **Failure to complete the forms will result in the staff member or student being required to remain at home for ten days.**
- e. They must be tested within 5-7 days after exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
 - i. If the test results are negative, no further action is required.
 - ii. If the test results are positive, the individual has to begin to quarantine and isolate from others in the home and inform the school nurse.