

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Ms. Alisha DiCorpo
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

Last week, Governor Lamont announced that Connecticut School districts would have the option to adopt a process entitled, "Screen and Stay," which provides options for temporary relief from student and staff quarantines due to CoVid-19 Exposures in K-12 schools. Soon thereafter, on Friday, November 5, 2021, districts were provided with the following guidance: [Options for Temporary Relief from Student and Staff Quarantines due to COVID-19 Exposures in K-12 Schools Fall 2021](#) which describes specific instances during which screen and stay could be offered as a choice for families. We are pleased to announce that we are ready to implement the "Screen and Stay" process effective Monday, November 15, 2021, throughout the year until there comes a time when the state discontinues the option for districts.

Here are the highlights from the DPH and the CSDE's communication.

Screen and Stay procedures will permit students or staff who would otherwise have to quarantine due to an exposure experienced while in school to choose to continue reporting to school for in-person learning or work provided:

- the exposure occurred inside the school building between masked individuals; or
- the exposure occurred between either masked or unmasked individuals in certain supervised outdoor activities; and
- the student or staff person identified as a close contact remains asymptomatic; and
- both the school and family can implement selected procedures to further reduce in-school transmission risk.

CDC continues to define a "close contact" that would necessitate quarantine as spending at least 15 minutes of time (cumulatively during a 24-hour period) within 6 feet of a COVID-19 case during their infectious period. School administrators should be reminded that **maintaining appropriate distance between individuals during any unmasked periods of time (e.g., snack times, cafeterias, mask breaks, etc.), continues to be the most effective strategy to eliminate the need to quarantine students** as close contacts.

Fully vaccinated students or staff (i.e., individuals who are 2 weeks beyond their final dose of COVID-19 vaccine) **do not need to quarantine from in-person learning, athletics, or other activities** after contact with a COVID-19 case, regardless of the duration or distance of that contact, as long as they do not have any symptoms of COVID-19 in the 14 days after their last exposure to a COVID-19 case. CDC recommends that these individuals get tested for COVID-19 between 5-7 days after exposure and wear a mask while around others indoors until they receive a negative test result or for 14 days without a test.

If an individual experiences any symptoms associated with COVID-19 within 14 days after close contact with a known COVID-19 case, it is more likely that the symptoms are in fact associated with COVID-19. **Regardless of vaccination status, students or staff identified as close contacts should be reminded to continue to monitor themselves for any COVID-19 symptoms for a full 14 days after their last exposure and not to report for work or in-person learning, or any other in-person school events, if they experience any related symptoms at any time during the full 14-day period following their last exposure.** Schools should direct all students and staff who are experiencing symptoms that could be associated with COVID-19 to follow the procedures outlined in [Addendum 5](#) of the Adapt, Advance, Achieve publication.

Currently, CDC indicates the following symptoms as being potentially associated with COVID-19 infection:

- Fever (100.4 or higher) or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Although allowed to continue in-person learning activities, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students and staff in the Screen and Stay protocol should follow normal quarantine procedures related to interscholastic or other athletic activities, other extracurricular activities, and any other activities that involve the potential for close contact with individuals outside of the household and that occur outside of the normal school day. Students participating in the Screen and Stay protocol should also refrain from (and be provided with alternatives to) in-school activities with other students that may actively generate increased amounts of aerosol-sized respiratory droplets, including but not limited to singing, wind instrument playing, giving speeches, or highly aerobic Physical Education activities for the 14 calendar days that they are in the Screen and Stay protocol.

Close contact considerations for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students and staff School districts choosing to operationalize a Screen and Stay strategy in their schools can allow **students or staff who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated** (i.e., individuals who have begun their COVID-19 vaccination series but are not yet 2 weeks beyond their final dose) and would otherwise have to quarantine due to a close contact with a known COVID-19 case (see [Addendum 5](#)) to continue reporting to school for in-person learning or work provided the **only contact** with any COVID-19 case was either:

- **inside the school building** during the regular school day (provided both the case and contact were **consistently and correctly masked** during the entirety of the exposure) regardless of duration or distancing, or
- **on a school bus** or other school provided transportation (provided the case and contact were **consistently and correctly masked** during the entirety of the exposure) regardless of duration or distancing, or
- **outdoors** during a regular mask break, staff-monitored recess, meal period, or Physical Education or other instructional period (with or without masks) regardless of duration or distancing.

Situations that do not support Screen and Stay

Examples of scenarios where students or staff who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated **should not** participate in Screen and Stay, and instead should refrain from in-person learning and follow the routine quarantine and isolation procedures outlined in Addendum 5, include:

- 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.)

Please note that once a staff member or a student is identified as a close contact and it is determined that the person meets the criteria for Screen and Stay, the nurse and/or the building administrator will contact the staff member/family and explain the options available. Parents/staff who are choosing to opt into the Screen and Stay process will need to fill out the following attestation form:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EF1krWn8QUHf1emGBYreqqCzam8OJTvf/view?usp=sharing>

Staff should return the form promptly to the school administration and student forms should be sent directly to the school health office.

Parents must actively monitor their child daily for symptoms using this form: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EH5ZWXVvmrGZiw7Nft6vBHBTCBb_24SD/view?usp=sharing to screen for potential symptoms for 14 days.

If there are any questions, you may contact the school nursing staff and the school administration directly. Please keep this information handy in the event that you need to reference this information in the future.

Thank you for helping us to work together to proactively keep children in school, safe and learning.

Sincerely,



Alisha DiCorpo
Superintendent of Schools