

COVID-19 Update

January 9, 2022

Dear Hartford School District Community:

The Agency of Education has announced that new guidance around how school district's manage their response to COVID-19 is forthcoming, early this week. The Hartford School District has developed this preliminary guidance while we await the new state guidance. This new guidance is in draft form and needs to be reviewed by the Hartford Education Association and others prior to final implementation but it is how we anticipate responding to positive cases in our schools and programs while we await the new guidance. When the final guidance from the Agency of Education is provided we will adjust our guidance accordingly.

We anticipate the new guidance will include, that as directed by the Agency of Education, Hartford School District schools will no longer be doing contact tracing. If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID, they should contact their school nurse to let them know. They will be advised to notify anyone that they may have been in close contact with during their infectious period. When the school is made aware that a member of their community has tested positive, a general communication will go out notifying of a possible exposure in a specific classroom.

Effective immediately, the Hartford School District will be following the Vermont Department of Health guidance for those students and staff who have tested positive for COVID or have been in close contact with anyone who has.

If your child is currently in quarantine or isolating, please contact their school nurse to discuss their return date in light of these recent changes.

QUARANTINE FOLLOWING AN EXPOSURE

If you are notified that you/your child was a close contact of someone who tested positive for COVID during their infectious period, please use the following guidance:

IF YOU:

- Had a booster shot OR
- Completed your Pfizer or Moderna vaccine series within the last 6 months OR
- Received your Johnson & Johnson vaccination within the last 2 months OR
- Are 5-17yrs old, currently enrolled in a K-12 school and have completed your Pfizer vaccine series

You DO NOT need to quarantine.

YOU MUST:

- Wear a mask when around others.
- Get tested 5-7 days following your last date of exposure.
- Get tested at any time if you develop symptoms and stay home until you get your test result.

IF YOU:

- Are not vaccinated OR
- Are 18yrs or older and completed your Pfizer or Moderna vaccine series greater than 6 months ago and have not had a booster dose OR

Received your Johnson & Johnson vaccine greater than 2 months ago and have not had a booster dose

YOU MUST:

- Stay home and quarantine.
- You can leave your home on Day 5 IF:
 - You have no symptoms AND
 - You wear a mask around others for 10 days AND
 - You have a negative PCR/LAMP test on or after day 5 OR 2 negative antigen tests taken 24hrs apart starting no earlier than Day 4.
- Get tested at any time if you develop symptoms and stay home until you get your test result.
- Please provide a copy of test results to the school nurse.

IF YOU:

Have had a confirmed case of COVID within the last 90 days, wear a mask around others for 10 days. You do not need to quarantine but you must stay home and get tested should you develop any symptoms.

ISOLATION FOLLOWING A POSITIVE TEST

If you have a positive antigen or PCR test, let your school nurse know. Use the following guidance regardless of vaccination status:

- Stay home and isolate for 5 days.
- You can end isolation on day 5 IF

- You have 2 negative antigen tests taken 24hrs apart starting no earlier than Day 4 AND
- You never had symptoms or any symptoms are significantly improved AND
- You have not had a fever for 24hrs without the use of fever reducing medications AND
- You wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- [Notify your close contacts that you have tested positive.](#)
- If you DO NOT meet the criteria above, you MUST isolate for 10 days from the date your symptoms started or from the date of your test if you never had symptoms.

ILLNESS

If anyone, regardless of vaccination status, develops ANY symptom(s) that could be associated with COVID (see list below) they must stay home AND get a COVID test prior to being able to return. If tested, please provide a copy of the result to the school nurse. Students/staff can return to school with a negative test result as long as their symptoms are improved and they are fever free for 24hrs prior to return. If not tested with an antigen or PCR test, you MUST quarantine for 10 days.

List of symptoms (regardless of severity):

Cough	Nausea
Shortness of breath	Vomiting
Fever	Diarrhea
Sore throat	Loss of taste or smell
Runny/stuffy nose	
Headache	
Fatigue	
Muscle aches	

TESTING AT SCHOOL

If you cannot access a home antigen test kit and/or would like to have your child complete a PCR COVID test at school to end quarantine due to exposure or illness, please make sure you have completed the electronic consent form linked below.

<https://www.cognitoforms.com/VermontAgencyOfEducation/SY22COVID19TestingProgramConsentForm>

Contact your school nurse to make arrangements for testing.

Antigen test kits will be provided as they become available to our schools from the state.

Sincerely,

Tom DeBalsi
Superintendent
Hartford School District