

September 24, 2021

Dear Staff & Families,

Fall officially arrived this week, and with it the local numbers of positive COVID cases have dropped a bit. It's too early to know if this is truly a trend, but it is hopeful news! There have been scattered positive COVID 19 cases in our schools so far this school year. In each case, the school nurses are working closely with the local health department to complete contact tracing. Thanks to the availability of vaccines and to the new three foot guideline for identifying student contacts in the classroom, the number of quarantined students has dropped significantly this school year. The data on positive cases and their direct contacts, sorted by school, can be seen on the [DASHBOARD 2021-22](#) which is posted on the district website.

Staff and families have had lots of questions this year about when to test and how to interpret the results. The guidelines are a bit complicated, so it is not surprising that people are confused. The CDC has created a tool to help people decide how to proceed in different COVID-related situations. This tool is now available on the district website and on the Health Services webpage: [Newtown District Website](#).

The guidelines from CT Department of Health advise testing for anyone who develops symptoms suggestive of COVID 19, regardless of vaccine status. Key symptoms include: fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of taste/smell. Any one of these symptoms is a reason to stay home and be tested. Additionally, if someone has any combination of nonspecific symptoms such as headache, sore throat, unusual fatigue, runny nose, muscle aches or diarrhea, please stay home and get COVID tested. **Please report positive test results to your school nurse as soon as possible.**

Free testing is available six days a week (drive up) in Danbury without an appointment in one of the following locations:

**Pat Waldron Building**

118 Memorial Drive  
Danbury, CT 06810  
Mondays: 3:00pm – 7:00pm  
Wednesdays: 3:00pm – 7:00pm  
Saturdays: 10:00am – 2:00pm

**PAL Building**

35 Hayestown Road  
Danbury, CT 06810  
Tuesdays: 10:00am – 2:00pm  
Thursdays: 3:00pm – 7:00pm  
Fridays: 10:00am – 2:00pm

For more information, please call SEMA4 at (800) 298-6470 or the City of Danbury Department of Health and Human Services at (203) 797-4625

Thank you to all of you for your patience and cooperation as we work to keep all of our students safe, healthy and in school.

Stay safe. Be well.

Anne Dalton, BSN, RN  
Newtown School Nursing Supervisor