

May 2022

Dear Staff and Families,

There has been a significant increase in the COVID -19 transmission rates across Connecticut over the past few weeks. The Department of Public Health expects to continue to see more cases due to the recent increase in gatherings and travel this spring.

Newtown Schools continue to address the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Free testing kits are available to students, staff and families on request.
- Weekly COVID-19 screening is available for staff and students.
- Griffin Hospital and the Newtown Health Department continue to run vaccine clinics for residents in addition to the vaccines available at pharmacies and in doctor's offices.
- Ventilation and cleaning continues to be maximized in all school buildings.
- Quarantine and masking protocols continue for anyone who tests positive for COVID-19, as well as masking for those exposed to a positive case.

We are asking our staff, students, and families for your continued support to help us reduce potential COVID-19 risks even further over the next several weeks. Please remember to:

- **Stay home if you feel unwell** and especially if you are experiencing any symptoms that could be caused by COVID-19:
- **Get vaccinated** for COVID-19 if you have not done so already and get a booster vaccine dose if you are eligible.
- **Test for COVID-19** either using an at-home test kit or at a pharmacy or other testing site if you:
 - feel unwell or have any symptoms that could be associated with COVID-19; or
 - have had an exposure to someone suspected of having COVID-19; or
 - have recently traveled out of state using public transportation (e.g., air, train, bus); or
 - have attended any large group events (e.g., concerts, weddings or similar events, etc.)
- If you test positive for COVID-19, **contact the school nurse** and **click here for isolation guidance**, including remaining away from school activities for at least 5 days and wearing a mask when returning for an additional 5 days.
- If you have a close contact with someone with COVID-19 either inside or outside of your household, click here for **quarantine guidance** as appropriate for your vaccination status. **Those exposed to a positive COVID case should wear a well fitting mask when around others for 10 days from the date of exposure, whether or not they have been vaccinated.**

- **Wear a mask** when you are around other people especially if:
 - you are not feeling well
 - are advised to do so based on isolation or quarantine recommendations
 - you are at-risk for severe COVID-19 complications
 - you feel more comfortable wearing a mask at this time.

Thank you to everyone for your continued attention to all of these measures and for your dedication to protecting each other.

Stay safe. Be well,

Anne Dalton, BSN, RN

Newtown Health & Wellness Coordinator