

NEW MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Ms. Alisha DiCorpo
Interim Superintendent of Schools

January 11, 2021

Dear New Milford School Community:

On December 16, 2020, the Connecticut State Department of Public Health (CT DPH) published **updated guidance** that aligns with the CDC quarantine guidance of 12/2/2020. This new guidance states that quarantine can be shorter than 14 days. On January 4, 2021 the DPH and CSDE (Connecticut State Department of Education) collaborated to provide school districts with guidance and protocols for responding to specific COVID-19 scenarios that may occur.

I am sending this letter to you to inform you of how this new approach to quarantine length applies in our schools. After collaborating with our local Health Department and Medical Advisor, the New Milford Public Schools will be adopting these recommendations, as described in this letter, which means most individuals will be able to return to school after 10 days of quarantine. Please ensure you read the guidance carefully, as there are a number of steps you must take even after 10 days to continue monitoring your symptoms and carefully continuing your mitigating strategies, such as mask wearing, hand washing, symptom monitoring and social distancing.

In keeping our staff and students safe, NMPS is implementing the 10 day quarantine period. Here's what this means:

- All staff and students should remain home if they are not feeling well and are encouraged to get tested. A COVID-19 test must be a PCR test. The only exception is if an individual receives a positive antigen test, then they are assumed to be a true positive case.
- COVID-19 tests can be either a PCR or antigen. If an antigen test is done and is negative, it must be confirmed with a PCR test.
 - If a PCR test is negative, an individual may return to school. NMPS MUST have documentation of the test result on file *before* returning.
 - If a PCR/antigen test is positive, stay in self-isolation for 10 days from the onset of symptoms.
 - If not tested, remain in self-isolation for 10 days since onset of symptoms. Students/staff can return to school earlier if a note is obtained from a health care provider with a specific, confirmed alternate diagnosis.

- If you have been in contact with someone diagnosed with COVID-19 (close contact), you are encouraged to get tested. Remain home in self-quarantine for 10 days from last exposure to the person with COVID-19.
 - If the PCR test is negative, remain in self-quarantine for 10 days from the last day of exposure. If symptoms develop, immediately self-isolate and contact your health care provider.
 - If the PCR/antigen test is positive, remain home, monitor symptoms, and notify the school. Stay home until 10 days have passed from a positive test or onset of symptoms, whichever came first.
 - If not tested, remain home in self-quarantine for 10 days from last exposure to the person diagnosed with COVID-19.

Please note, even though the quarantine period has been shortened, you are required to monitor for symptoms for an additional 4 days and contact your health care provider and school if symptoms develop. In all cases, in order to return to school an individual must have improving symptoms and be at least 24 hours fever free with no fever reducing medication.

If you are notified that you have been identified as a close contact, please reach out to your school nurse or your supervisor for more information about the quarantine protocols.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you should have any questions about this communication. Thank you very much for your understanding and patience during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Alisha DiCorpo