

Finish Strong



Schools, individuals, and families all have a role to play in protecting in-person learning for the remainder of the school year.

School Contact Tracing and Quarantining

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Connecticut Department of Health (DPH) would like to remind schools that the definition of “close contact” as used for quarantine rules has not changed. [Addendum 9, Contact Tracing Scenarios in Schools](#), and [Addendum 5, Interim Guidance for Responding to COVID-19 Scenarios in Connecticut School Districts](#) are binding guidance documents, pursuant to [Executive Order 9, Section 1](#), as extended by [Executive Order 10A](#). These documents reflect the advice of both the DPH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), a “close contact” is defined as:

Spending a total of at least 15 minutes (within 24 hours) within 6 feet of a person with a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19 during their infectious period or having direct contact with an infected person’s droplets (e.g., cough, sneeze).

While we recognize the impact that quarantining has on our students and of the compelling reasons for students to be in-person school as much as possible, the CSDE and DPH cannot support a model of quarantine that is against the current binding rules and CDC recommendations. The suite of mitigation efforts and quarantine rules remain our strongest strategies to combat COVID-19, and despite promising data around the safety of schools, we strongly recommend school leaders continue to implement the statewide rules as we work together to finish this school year strong.