

From: Alan Addley <dps@darienps.org>
Subject: Superintendent Communication

December 18, 2020

Dear Families and Staff,

Good evening. As a final message of 2020, I trust this finds your family in good health and enjoying the beautiful winter white scenery yesterday's storm provided. Our collective ability to transition to different learning models is impressive. Our teachers, students, and parents have proved time after time that Darien's learning community is extraordinary. Thank you for accommodating the many unusual circumstances 2020 continues to offer from the pandemic, to power outages, water main breaks, storms and whatever is yet to come.

This Monday, December 21st, the Board of Education will participate in a special meeting related to goal setting and strategic planning. As you may be aware, a District Strategic Planning Committee commenced last fall. Recommendations from that committee have moved to the Board for discussion, review, and future implementation. When finally adopted, we look forward to embracing these new goals that will help inform the next level of work for the District over the next several years.

Our initial days of remote learning have been successful. However, we know that in person learning remains our shared goal as long as everyone's health and safety can be protected. On Monday, January 4, we fully anticipate resuming school in the learning models prior to December 16th (in person for elementary & hybrid for secondary). Specialized programs will also resume in the same learning model prior to December 16th.

On December 2, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published new COVID quarantine guidance for close contacts: [Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing | CDC](#). On December 16, 2020, the Connecticut State Department of Public Health (CT DPH) published [updated guidance](#) that aligns with the CDC quarantine guidance. Today, the Connecticut State Department of Education released its guidance for schools. This new guidance allows for quarantine times to be shorter than 14 days. The new options are as follows:

Option A: Quarantine Only - 10 days

- Daily self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms and the individual has remained free of COVID-19 symptoms throughout the entire 10-day quarantine (day 0 is the day of exposure); AND
- Daily symptom self-monitoring continues after 10 days for an additional 4 days (days 11–14). If any symptoms develop, immediately self-isolate and contact your healthcare provider; AND
- After 10 days, persons need to continue to take the measures needed to prevent COVID-19 to include mask wearing and hand hygiene

Option B: Test Out of Quarantine - at least 7 days

- Daily self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms and the individual has remained free of COVID-19 symptoms of COVID-19 during the whole 7-day quarantine (day 0 is the day of exposure); AND
- A negative diagnostic test (molecular or antigen) for coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) is obtained on day 5 or later and a negative test result has been received; AND
 - The quarantine period should not end before 7 days, even if a negative test result was obtained earlier
 - If a test result is still pending at day 7, the person cannot end quarantine until that result is received and is negative
- Daily symptom monitoring continues after 7 days for an additional 7 days (days 8–14). If any symptoms develop, immediately self-isolate and contact your healthcare provider.
- After 7 days, persons need to continue to take the measures needed to prevent COVID-19, including but not limited to: wearing a mask and hand hygiene.

After close consultation with our local health department and Medical Advisor, the District will be adopting Option A, as described above, effective immediately. We encourage you to 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 and hand washing.

Close contacts will continue to be notified by email with information about the dates of quarantine, details about remote learning, and testing recommendations. Please feel free to contact your school nurse or Alicia Casucci (acasucci@darienps.org), APRN, Director of Nursing Services, with any questions about this new guidance. Similarly, contact Alicia or a nurse if you are currently under quarantine and have questions.

Please report positive COVID cases to the Nurse Information Line (203.656.7440) through Wednesday, December 23, 2020, and beginning again on Monday, December 28, 2020. The nurse line will not be monitored from December 24, 2020 through

December 27, 2020. For any COVID-19 or other health related concerns, please contact your healthcare provider for guidance and evaluation. Finally, should you be travelling, please continue to follow [CT's Travel Advisory](#).

Enjoy a safe and relaxing time with family during the break and I look forward to our continued work together in 2021.

Wishing you Happy Holidays and a Healthy New Year!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Addley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Dr. Alan Addley, Ed.D

Superintendent of Schools