

Darien Public Schools - Administrative Offices

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May 7, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

Good afternoon everyone. As Teacher Appreciation Week comes to a close, we offer a special thank you to all of our staff for the tremendous work they do on behalf of our students, especially in this unprecedented challenging year. Thanks also to the PTOs across the District who generously provided events and treats for teachers to extend their gratitude on behalf of our supportive parents.

In other good news, you may have noticed, we are experiencing a sharp decline in the number of COVID cases in the District. This week we enjoyed a full seven (7) days without a new case of COVID affecting our school community. Our last reported case was April 28. This encouraging pattern has allowed us to expand spectatorship at games and have audience participation at outside musical events. It has also allowed principals to expand end of year celebrations for our deserving students.

With this encouraging COVID news, in consultation with our medical advisors, we are happy to announce, effective immediately, the District will reduce the time of post-exposure quarantine from 10 days to 7 days, with a negative test on day 5 or later, for the purposes of school attendance. The quarantine period for high school athletes has also been reduced from 14 days to 10 days, with a negative test on day 8 or later. The modified quarantine periods are explained below:

For School Attendance

In order for any student to return to school on post-exposure Day 8, he/she must remain symptom free for the full 7-day quarantine period, monitor for symptoms for a full 14 days, and submit proof of a negative molecular (PCR) test collected on post-exposure day 5, or later, to their respective school nurse.

For High School Athletic Participation:

In order for a student athlete to return to athletics on post-exposure Day 11, he/she must remain symptom free for the full 10-day post-exposure period, monitor for symptoms for a full 14 days, and submit proof of a negative molecular (PCR) test collected on post-exposure day 8 or later to the athletic trainer. If the student athlete presented a negative test for return to school on post-exposure Day 8, **he/she must submit an additional negative test**, taken on post-exposure Day 8 or later, in order to return to athletics on post-exposure Day 11.

Examples:

	Date of exposure	Quarantine period from school	Quarantine period from athletics	Test on, or after:	Return to School (if no symptoms AND a negative molecular "PCR" test)	Return to Athletics (if no symptoms AND a negative molecular "PCR" test)
STUDENT	May 1	May 2 through May 8		May 6	May 9	
STUDENT ATHLETE	May 1	May 2 through May 8	May 2 through May 11	May 6 (school) AND May 8 (athletics)	May 9	May 12

On behalf of the administration, thank you for your support as we work toward closing the school year safely with some fun events for the students and school community.

A special thank you and recognition to all our Mothers this weekend. May your Mother's Day be filled spending time with those you care about most.

Sincerely,

Dr. Alan Addley, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools