

Darien Public Schools - Administrative Offices

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April 23 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

Good afternoon everyone and thank you to our entire school community for accommodating this week of remote learning after the spring recess. As everyone returns to full in person learning next week, COVID infection rates show an encouraging downward trend, staff are fully vaccinated and we have scheduled vaccination clinics for students who are sixteen or older. All of these factors help contribute to a safer school environment that will permit more regular type activities to take place both in and outside of school.

With the appropriate mitigation strategies, we are pleased to be able to provide some live outdoor theater, band, chorus and orchestra concerts over the next few weeks with in person audiences.

Following this week's meeting with our public health officials, we are able to expand spectatorship at athletic events with the provision that in doing so it does not contribute to greater COVID-19 spread or large numbers of students needing to be quarantined. It is important we expand the spectatorship thoughtfully as well as expeditiously with the welfare of the entire student body and community in mind. Given students have not been in school this week, we have expanded spectatorship to include two parents from the home and away teams as well as the senior students of the home and visiting schools. This step in increasing the spectatorship lets the administration plan for safe and organized future athletic events. It is the District's intent to quickly expand the student spectatorship numbers in the coming week(s).

In collaboration with the Community Health Center, a Pfizer COVID vaccine clinic has been scheduled for High School students. The clinic will be held on May 1, 2021 (first dose) and May 22, 2021 (second dose) from 1:00-4:00 at the Lord and Taylor vaccination site in Stamford. The appointment time selected will be the same for both doses. Registration is now open to all students who are 16 years of age and older. Individuals over 18 years of age can self-register. For those, under 18 years of age, registration requires the consent of a parent or guardian. [VACCINE CLINIC REGISTRATION LINK](#)

By now, everyone is familiar with the [most common symptoms of COVID](#). With the emergence of new COVID variants, it's not unusual for these symptoms to be mild in nature. Symptoms that would have been attributed to a mild cold or allergies in the past are likely to be COVID. **PLEASE do not ignore the presence of these symptoms!** If any individual in your household develops any symptom of COVID, no matter how mild, please keep everyone home and get tested. Finally, please keep any child waiting for results of a COVID test at home, no matter the reason for the test.

As we enter the final school term of learning, it is perhaps understandable that COVID fatigue has set in with the ever-changing and sometimes inconsistent messaging from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State Department of Education and the Connecticut Department of Public Health. As we have done throughout this pandemic, protecting the health and safety of our schools has been our top priority.

As we welcome back our students for the final few months of school, I ask for your continued understanding and patience as the District modifies its practices and policies in response to the changing requirements and guidelines. Let us stay the course together and finish the year strongly and safely!

Sincerely,



Dr. Alan Addley, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools