

Darien Public Schools - Administrative Offices

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May 14, 2021

Dear Families and Staff,

Good afternoon everyone. On Wednesday we celebrated National School Nurses' Day across the District. This year in particular we extend our respect and admiration to our nurses who have been on the front lines combating COVID-19. We thank our Director of Nursing, RNs and LPNs for volunteering countless hours of time and talents in the service to schools and the greater community. They have done a remarkable job through their daily care and compassion for students, contact tracing and in providing vaccination clinics for students, staff and the community.

As another week comes to a close we have no new COVID cases to report. As a result, we have been able to resume many of our end-of-year events. Thank you to everyone who is assisting our staff in planning these celebrations for our students.

The expansion of COVID vaccine to our students who are 12 years of age and older is another promising step toward ensuring the health and safety of our school community. We were happy to share information about vaccine clinics in our area and will continue to communicate future clinic information with our families as it becomes available.

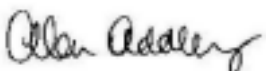
Yesterday, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced that people who have been vaccinated do not have to wear masks or be physically distanced outdoors and in most indoor settings. A person is considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 two weeks after getting the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine or two weeks after receiving the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. For Connecticut, this change is scheduled to start on Wednesday, May 19.

This is great news and represents a major step toward a return to normalcy for schools and the general public. Connecticut schools take direction from the CDC, the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CDPH). Currently, people in school buildings are still required to wear masks and practice physical distancing. It is not unusual for the CSDE & CDPH to move more slowly in its decision-making or to maintain its requirements. In yesterday's press conference, Governor Lamont indicated that he expected that masks should be worn in school buildings through the remainder of this school year. For now, all students and staff will continue to wear masks inside the school buildings. We will continue to consult with our health professionals and await further direction from CSDE & CDPH early next week.

As we close out the school year safely, we have reason to do so with great optimism for the future and pride in our accomplishments in providing our students with a quality educational experience and in keeping each other safe throughout the pandemic.

Wishing you an enjoyable weekend,

Sincerely,



Dr. Alan Addley, Ed.D
Superintendent of Schools