



EAST LYME PUBLIC SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 220 • East Lyme, Connecticut 06333 • (860) 739-3966 • Fax (860) 739-1215

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

Annaliese Spaziano
*Assistant Superintendent of
Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*

Kimberly Davis
*Director of
Student Services*

Maryanna Stevens, CPA
*Director of Finance, Marketing,
and Growth Management*

November 8, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have recently received the new 'Screen and Stay' guidance from CSDE and DPH regarding the protocols that need to be in place to implement this option for unvaccinated students and staff. The [Options for Temporary Relief from Quarantine Measures](#) that were shared with school districts outline the measures that we will need to take for effective and safe implementation of this new option.

The 'Screen and Stay' option for our schools will begin **tomorrow, Tuesday, November 9, 2021**. Please note that there is a ['Parent Affirmation Form'](#) which must be submitted to the school office only when a child is identified as a primary contact.

The following 'Screen and Stay' guidelines will be adhered to for East Lyme Public Schools

Students or staff who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated (i.e., individuals who have begun their COVID-19 vaccination series but are not yet two weeks beyond their final dose) and would otherwise have to quarantine due to a close contact with a known COVID-19 case can continue reporting to school for in-person learning or work provided the only contact with any COVID-19 case was either:

- **inside the school building** during the regular school day (provided both the case and contact were consistently and correctly masked during the entirety of the exposure) regardless of duration or distancing, or
- **on a school bus** or other school provided transportation (provided the case and contact were **consistently and correctly masked** during the entirety of the exposure) regardless of duration or distancing, or
- outdoors during a regular mask break, staff-monitored recess, meal period, or Physical Education or other instructional period (with or without masks) regardless of duration or distancing.

Situations that do not fall under the Screen and Stay Option

- having a close contact **outside of school** (e.g., at a party or sleepover, a household contact, etc.)
- in a situation indoors where **masks were removed and 6 feet of spacing was not maintained** (e.g., in the cafeteria, in the classroom during a snack period, mask break, etc.)

East Lyme Public Schools will inspire, engage and educate each student to become a contributing citizen and a responsible, independent, and critical thinker.



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- **during extracurricular or other activities** outside the regular school day (e.g., sports, before or after school care, etc.)

Screen and Stay requirements for continuing in-person learning or work

Although allowed to continue in-person learning activities, **unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students and staff in the Screen and Stay protocol should follow normal quarantine procedures related to interscholastic or other athletic activities, before/after school care, other extracurricular activities, clubs, and any other activities** that involve the potential for close contact with individuals outside of the household and that occur outside of the normal school day. Students participating in the Screen and Stay protocol should also refrain from (and be provided with alternatives to) in-school activities with other students that may actively generate increased amounts of aerosol-sized respiratory droplets, including but not limited to singing, wind instrument playing, giving speeches, or highly aerobic Physical Education activities for the 14 calendar days that they are in the Screen and Stay protocol.

As always, the safety of our students and staff remains a top priority and we appreciate your cooperation and partnership through this process and districtwide implementation. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to my office directly.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

JN:jc