



SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

*Timothy M. Van Tassel, Ed.D.
Superintendent*

*Laura Guerrette
Executive Secretary*

November 12, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, Faculty and Staff:

As noted in last week's update, our district will be moving forward with "Screen to Stay" for Close Contacts on Monday, November 15, 2021. The Department of Public Health has updated their guidance since my correspondence to you last week, and we have amended our procedures to be in alignment with their revised recommendations. Please review the following information as it relates to the revised protocol.

As a reminder, the new "Screen to Stay" procedure is specific to Close Contact exposures in certain circumstances within the Suffield Public Schools. We will continue to utilize the current CDC Close Contact definition for children in schools. If your child's exposure occurred in the cafeteria, at recess, or any other activity where masking was limited, your child will still need to quarantine for a period of 10 days. Clusters of cases within a classroom will also result in the need to quarantine. In addition, the DPH has stated that Screen to Stay does not apply to preschool classrooms. In terms of quarantines, they may be reduced to Day 8 if your child tests negative after Day 5. In the event your child must self-quarantine, they will be able to access remote learning during the quarantine period.

What is new: To participate in "Screen to Stay," parents must complete an attestation that includes the following information prior to their child returning to school:

- Parent/Guardian has reviewed the DPH COVID-19 Screen to Stay information;
- Parent/Guardian agrees to screen their child for COVID-19 symptoms prior to school for 14 days. This will not need to be submitted to the school;
- Parent/Guardian agrees to keep their child home from school if the child has any COVID-19 symptoms.

Upon being identified as a Close Contact, parents will receive an electronic correspondence from the district with a hyperlink to the "Screen to Stay" attestation. This attestation will need to be completed and submitted if a parent wants to opt their child into our "Screen to Stay" protocol. In the Close Contact electronic correspondence, we will also provide parents with a link to the DPH COVID-19 "Screen to Stay" slide deck and our district's COVID-19 Screening Instrument. Parents are no longer required to submit the COVID-19 Screening Instrument to the school on a daily basis. The DPH has clarified that the attestation is all that is required for documentation. With this, we are entrusting our parents to follow the guidelines as prescribed in order to ensure the effectiveness of "Screen to Stay."

With our state, county, and local transmission levels decreasing, it is likely that we will continue to see modifications to our health and safety protocols that reflect these trends. We will continue to participate on our weekly conference calls with the state's Department of Education and the Department of Public Health and we will inform you of any further changes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,
Timothy M. Van Tassel, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools