

Screen and Stay Protocol - Parent Guidance/Affirmation

You are receiving this information because your student has been identified as a close contact to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.

- Please read this document carefully
- Sign the enclosed attestation form
- Complete the checklist daily for 14 days
- Return the form to the school prior to your student returning to school
- Confirm that the exposed individual is eligible for the Screen and Stay protocol

Connecticut Department of Public Health, The Connecticut State Department of Education and Greenwich Public Schools are sensitive to the needs of school districts and families having to navigate the repeated quarantine of large numbers of students due to close contact with a COVID-19 case in the school setting and have been in constant communication over the past weeks to develop a plan to offer relief. Greenwich Public Schools will offer the **Screen and Stay** protocol as an alternative to other quarantine protocols when the appropriate conditions have been met.

Screen and Stay protocols will permit students or staff who would otherwise have to quarantine due to an exposure experienced while in school to choose to continue reporting to school for in-person learning or work provided the student or staff person identified as a close contact remains asymptomatic and that identifies with one of these scenarios:

- The exposure occurred inside the school building between masked individuals; or 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.
- The exposure occurred between either masked or unmasked individuals in certain supervised outdoor activities (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.
- The exposure occurred 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

Situations that do not support Screen and Stay

Examples of scenarios where students or staff who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated should not participate in **Screen and Stay**, and instead should refrain from in-person learning and follow the routine quarantine and isolation procedures include:

- Having 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.)
- During extracurricular or other activities outside the regular school day (e.g., sports, before or after school care, etc.)
- Pre-K students, because of the challenges with consistent and correct mask wearing in preschool aged children and the lack of an anticipated vaccine for children less than 5 years old in the near future, DPH, CSDE, and the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood (OEC) agree that **Screen and Stay** is not appropriate for PreK students.
- 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.

Guidelines for students and staff participating in Screen and Stay

- Students and staff must perform daily symptom assessment of the individual in the **Screen and Stay** protocol for 14 days (regardless of any existing policy allowing students or staff to return from a normal quarantine (7 or 10 day options))

AND

- Individuals must provide a documented affirmation to their school administration or designee that they:
 1. Intend to continue with in-person learning or work despite being identified as a close contact
 2. Have read this guidance document and understand the **Screen and Stay** protocol requirements
 3. Understand **Screen and Stay** protocols apply only to in-person learning and that the individual should continue to follow normal quarantine procedures for all other activities (e.g., sports, extracurricular activities, gatherings with individuals outside of their household, etc.)

4. Will perform a daily symptom self-assessment or assessment of the participating student each morning prior to leaving home for a full 14 calendar days, regardless of the school's current procedures for returning students quarantined at home to in person learning (e.g., 10 days, 7 days with a test on day 5 or later, etc.)
5. Will remain home from work or keep the student home, contact the school, and revert to normal school quarantine procedures if they experience any of COVID-19 symptoms
6. Will monitor for COVID-19 symptoms before leaving home for each school day during the 14-day symptom screening period