

# Regional School District No. 7

## Superintendent's Newsletter

November 10, 2021

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Dear Northwestern Staff, Students, and Families:

The Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) have announced a new quarantine option for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students and staff identified as a “close contact” to a COVID-19 case while in school. This new option is called “**Screen and Stay**”.

**Screen and Stay** is an optional strategy available for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students and staff to reduce time spent away from school. It will permit students or staff who would otherwise have to quarantine due to an exposure at school to choose to continue reporting to school, provided:

- the only contact to the positive case occurred during the school day (not including extracurricular or social contacts); and
- if indoors, or on a school bus or van, both the contact and the positive case were masked during their time together; and
- if outdoors, masked or unmasked, during a supervised activity such as physical education or a mask break; and
- the student or staff person remain healthy and without symptoms (asymptomatic).

The likelihood of transmission of the virus in the aforementioned scenarios is very low. The **Screen and Stay** approach **will not** be used in the following situations:

- contact with a positive case during interscholastic athletic activities, or
- contact occurring during social interactions or similar activities outside of school, or
- contact where the case or close contact is not consistently and correctly wearing a mask indoors, such as eating or wind instrument playing, and a 6 ft. distance is not maintained, or
- household contact, or
- the contact cannot consistently and correctly wear a mask or cannot perform daily symptom screening.

In order to remain in the **Screen and Stay** protocol, the following would apply:

- If the student or staff member is unvaccinated or partially vaccinated (i.e., started COVID-19 series but has not yet completed), they must confirm that:
  - a. they have read and understood the [Screen and Stay requirements](#); and,
  - b. they intend to screen for symptoms each morning, prior to school, for 14 days; and,
  - c. if symptoms develop, they intend to remain home and notify the school.

**Regular quarantine procedures** will continue for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students who participate in athletics, extracurricular, and other activities outside of the school day.

It is important to note that **Screen and Stay** applies only to the situations identified in the second paragraph of this newsletter.

Our administrators and school nurses will use the following process to determine if **Screen and Stay** protocol can be applied:

Step One: Determine if this person is a close contact to the positive case.

Step Two: Our school nurses will determine if the close contact is vaccinated. If so, no quarantine is necessary as long as the contact remains symptom free.

Step Three: Identify the school setting where the unvaccinated or partially vaccinated student or staff member made contact with the positive case.

Step Four: Since Screen and Stay is optional, the school nurse will ask the parent of the unvaccinated or partially vaccinated student if they would like to participate in this option.

Step Five: If the parent does not want to have their child participate in **Screen and Stay**, the student will remain in a regular quarantine.

The school nurse will inform parents of the quarantine dates associated with the quarantine period.

While **Screen and Stay** does not apply to all close contact situations in a school setting, it does help with classroom and school bus exposures.

The DPH reminds us that fully vaccinated staff and students do not need to quarantine.

Andy Bakulski, our COVID Liaison, will be available to answer your questions regarding **Screen and Stay**. Please contact him at [abakulski@nwr7.org](mailto:abakulski@nwr7.org) or by calling 860-379-8525 ext. 2200.

Thank you for your support of NWR7.



*The Pride of the Northwest Corner*