



WOODBIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

40 Beecher Road – South
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D. – Superintendent

November 15, 2021

Dear Woodbridge School District:

This letter is designed to provide details related to our implementation of the new “Screen & Stay” initiative available to Connecticut public school districts. This evening at 7:00 p.m., at our Regular Meeting of the Woodbridge Board of Education, I will provide additional details, as well as the survey results that led to the decision to implement Screen & Stay as described below.

In addition, our administrative team is scheduling a Parent/Guardian Forum for any questions related to Screen & Stay or other elements of our handling of the COVID-19 pandemic at Beecher this fall. The Forum will be Wednesday, November 17, at 5:00 p.m. via Google Meet; you may [click here](#) to access the meeting, and we will send out the meeting link again on Wednesday.

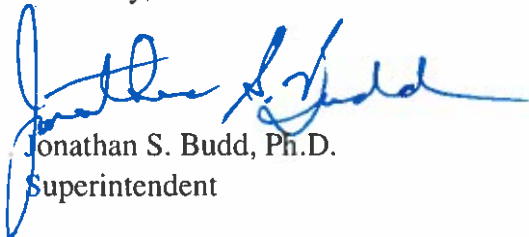
Please continue reading for procedural details related to our implementation of Screen & Stay.

- When a student is identified as having COVID-19, WSD will continue to consider as “close contacts” those peers in the COVID-positive student’s typical classroom, as well as any other students who meet the definition of “close contact” in other contexts, such as on the bus or in our Extended-Day Program. Screen & Stay does not affect these determinations.
- Once close contacts are identified, a member of the BRS administrative team will contact each of the student’s parent(s)/guardian(s), as well as each staff member, to advise them of the close contact and the appropriate next steps.
 - If a close contact is fully vaccinated (meaning two weeks beyond the final vaccination dose), then the close contact does not need to quarantine unless symptomatic. As the COVID-19 vaccine has become available to children ages 5-11, this provision will apply to increasing numbers of our student close contacts. The administrative team may ask parents/guardians to provide electronic proof of vaccination.
 - If a close contact is not fully vaccinated per the above definition, then a decision will be made regarding whether the individual is eligible for Screen & Stay. Screen & Stay is available for a grades K-6 close contact who has not been within 6 feet, unmasked, indoors, of the COVID-positive individual.
 - ✓ In most cases, students who have eaten snack and lunch in the classroom around the COVID-positive individual on the day(s) of potential exposure will therefore not be eligible for Screen & Stay, but other students in the classroom will be eligible.
 - ✓ Screen & Stay is available only to close contacts during the regular school day or on bus transportation; it is not an option for Extended-Day close contacts.
 - ✓ Screen & Stay is an option only for K-6 close contacts; it is not an option for Pre-K close contacts.

- If a student is eligible for Screen & Stay, the administrator speaking with the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) will ask whether they wish to affirm on a form that they will monitor the child's symptoms for 14 calendar days, and keep the child home if symptomatic. If so, the parent(s)/guardian(s) will be directed to the appropriate Google Form for this purpose, and the child may stay in school rather than quarantine. Based on requirements of the State Department of Education, a child participating in Screen & Stay may have modified physical education and music instruction for 14 calendar days. Please note that Screen & Stay is an option for parents/guardians; they may choose instead for their child to quarantine even if eligible for Screen & Stay.
- If a student is not eligible for Screen & Stay, or if the child's parent(s)/guardian(s) wish for the child to quarantine even if eligible for Screen & Stay, the administrator will explain the length of the quarantine period (shortened from 10 days to 7 days if the child produces an appropriate documented negative test from day 5 or later, and is asymptomatic).
- The administrative team is responsible for notifying BRS teachers of which students are on quarantine, the length of the quarantine, and any details related to if and when a student's quarantine ends early. For the most efficient response related to children who have been quarantined, parents/guardians should direct all questions and concerns to the administrator who initially contacted them.
- For the health and safety of everyone in our community, it is crucial that individuals stay home from school if they have symptoms associated with COVID-19. This is both a requirement of Screen & Stay as well as an important ongoing mitigation strategy for our community. If you have any questions in this regard, please contact our Nursing Supervisor, Robin Froehle, at rfroehle@woodbridgeps.org.

As our staff deals with the ongoing complexities of this challenging pandemic, I want to end by thanking you for your grace and support. We stand ready to hear from you with any questions or concerns you have at any time, and we aim to answer all inquiries within 24 hours.

Sincerely,



Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D.
Superintendent