



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
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January 3, 2022

Dear Staff, Students, Parents, and Guardians:

New guidance has come forth from the CSDE and Department of Health as it pertains to quarantining, isolation, testing for COVID-19, and for contact tracing. Those changes are fully outlined in the following document from the CT Department of Health titled [Updated Considerations for Quarantine, Isolation, Testing, and Contact Tracing Policies and Procedures in PreK-12 Schools](#). This updated guidance provides new operating protocols for districts in our continued response to the pandemic. Additional changes/recommendations may be forthcoming over the coming days. As of now the East Lyme Public Schools will begin following the new recommendations that have come forth beginning Tuesday, January 4, 2022.

Some key information included in the revised guidance is as follows:

- Adoption of a **five-day quarantine** and isolation rather than the current ten-day
- Discontinuing routine contact tracing for exposures that occur inside schools or during school-organized and supervised activities. DPH recommends schools now begin to refocus away from low risk in-school exposures toward identification and management of individuals with active symptoms related to COVID-19
- With the elimination of contact tracing, email/letter notifications will go out to include classroom-level messaging at the elementary grades, grade-level or kiva notifications at the middle school, and school-level notifications at the high school
- Ongoing enforcement of mitigation measures (mask wearing) that have been in place across our schools this year remain essential

As mentioned in my letter yesterday, we remain committed to in-person learning which is a requirement of the state. Please continue to monitor yourself and family members for any signs or symptoms of COVID-19. If symptoms arise, please make sure to contact the school nurse or school office and remain home (and/or keep your child at home if they have symptoms). Our collaboration and collective efforts will assist in minimizing disruption across our school buildings and classrooms. The following is a list of symptoms to be on the lookout for related to COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

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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- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

I appreciate your efforts and partnership as we collectively navigate this ongoing pandemic. Our priority remains safely providing continued learning for our students within our school buildings, while also maintaining as much continued normalcy as possible. Your assistance, cooperation, support, and ongoing reminders and enforcement in maintaining appropriate mask wearing during the school day is appreciated.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-739-3966 ext. 5602.
Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Newton
Superintendent of Schools

JN:jc