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January 13, 2022

Dear Orange-Ulster BOCES Families and Staff,

Orange-Ulster BOCES has adopted new quarantine policies effective immediately to reflect the changes in recommendations from the Center for Disease Control, the New York State Department of Health and Orange County DOH. Consistent with the guidance from the Center for Disease Control and the New York State Department of Health, individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or who have been exposed to COVID-19 will no longer be required to quarantine for 10 days.

This duration has now been shortened to 5 days *assuming the following conditions:*

- a. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status will be required to quarantine for a minimum of five days.
- b. Quarantine duration may be extended past 5 days if symptoms continue to persist after the 5th day.
- c. Individuals exposed to COVID-19 and currently in quarantine may return to school or work after the completion of 5 days so long as they remain asymptomatic.

For Individuals who have been exposed to COVID-19 the following actions shall be taken:

- a. If the individual is fully vaccinated and **NOT** exhibiting symptoms they may return to work or school regardless of booster status.
- b. If the individual is **NOT** vaccinated they should quarantine for a minimum of 5 days after the last day of exposure. The last day of exposure is considered day 0.

Staff will continue to provide a medical doctor's note of clearance following a COVID illness in order to be credited for their sick leave if applicable. If the staff member is quarantined due to a COVID exposure at Orange-Ulster BOCES they will continue to receive clearance via the school nurse.

Students who are unvaccinated and are quarantined due to an exposure at Orange-Ulster BOCES will be cleared to return to school by the school nurse and/or their medical provider following five days of quarantine.

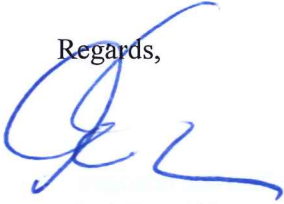
Individuals who are currently in quarantine as a result of testing **positive** to COVID-19 may return to school or work after 5 days under the following conditions:

- a. They are asymptomatic and fever free for at least 24 hours *without* the use of medications.
- b. They have received proper clearance to return to school.
- c. They must continue to wear a tight fitting mask at all times and follow all recommendations for proper masking and separation as outlined by the Center for Disease Control and the New York State Department of Health.

We are working on a plan to implement a Test to Stay (TTS) policy in the very near future. Once TTS is implemented, unvaccinated students and staff members may continue to attend school if they “opt in” to the program and agree to perform self-testing. More details are forthcoming on this program in the next several days.

Until the TTS program is active, please adhere to the guidelines stated above. Thank you for joining us in our commitment to keeping our schools safe and open.

Regards,



Mark P. Coleman
Director of Operations
COVID Compliance Coordinator