



January 3, 2022

Dear LEARN Community,

Happy New Year - we hope you have had a wonderful winter break.

As you may have heard, the State Department of Education has recently released updated guidance for schools that includes changes for isolating, quarantining, contact tracing, and testing based upon updated CDC guidance.

As we prepare to return to school tomorrow following the break, we are asking all of our families and staff members to carefully read the following updates to help assure a safe return to learning.

**Mask Wearing and Distancing:** All members of the LEARN community should continue to wear masks and maintain distance to the greatest extent possible. Masks must continue to cover the nose and mouth at all times, except when eating or identified mask breaks. Families are asked to emphasize the importance of complying with mask expectations - schools will be actively enforcing LEARN's mask policy.

**Stay Home When Symptomatic:** Due to a high rate of community transmission, individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms (even mild), or other symptoms of illness, should isolate at home, test with a PCR, antigen, or self-test, and remain at home until they are fever-free for 24 hours and other symptoms are significantly improved.

**Isolation and Quarantining:** Individuals who do test positive should isolate at home for at least 5 days (or longer if symptoms develop or persist). Unvaccinated individuals who are identified as close contacts outside of the school day, should immediately quarantine at home and test for COVID-19 5 days after their last exposure to the positive individual. These close contacts may return to school after 5 days of quarantine unless they test positive or are symptomatic. Vaccinated individuals should continue to monitor for symptoms but do not need to quarantine unless they become symptomatic.

**Contact Tracing:** The Department of Public Health recommended that schools discontinue individual contact tracing for in-school contacts to enable school staff to focus on individuals with active symptoms. LEARN will continue to notify families when their child has been in a classroom with a positive individual; however, this communication will be in the form of a letter instead of individual phone calls. Individuals with medical questions can contact the school nurse.

**Remote Learning:** Some questions have been raised regarding temporary shifts to remote learning; however, it is important to note that current legislation does not permit schools or districts to shift to remote learning. Only an emergency declaration from the Governor or a change in legislation could initiate shifts to remote learning at this time. Should a school not be able to open due to staff shortages, that school day must be made up at the end of the school year.



Since the start of the pandemic, we have worked together to adjust and implement the most up to date guidance and best practices to maintain safety and meet the needs of our children. LEARN will continue to work with state and local health partners to monitor data and make any adjustments as needed.

Thank you for your partnership,

Kate Ericson  
*Executive Director, LEARN*