

Kelly M. Lyman
Superintendent

November 12, 2021

Dear Mansfield Families,

As shared earlier, the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Connecticut State Department of Education recently provided guidance to schools on implementing “screen and stay” practices. This practice allows non-vaccinated individuals who have been identified as a close contact with someone infected with the COVID-19 virus to continue to attend school.

Vaccination remains the best defense against becoming infected with the virus, and those individuals who are fully vaccinated (two weeks past the final dose) are not required to quarantine at all if they have been around someone with the virus. For those not yet fully vaccinated, agreeing to follow all practices outlined in the Screen and Stay Guidance including conducting a health screen each morning for a 14 day period will allow the individual to continue to come to school. Please be aware, individuals identified as a close contact who come to school must agree to remain quarantined the remainder of the day for a full two weeks. This is not a removal of the quarantine requirement rather it is an allowance for school attendance during the quarantine period.

This allowance is optional. Families may decide to keep their child quarantined throughout the quarantine period. If Screen and Stay is preferred, know that there are some restrictions:

- First, there are some close contact activities which place the student at greater risk and make the child **ineligible** for Screen and Stay. These include being in an unmasked environment when appropriate distance has not been maintained such as may occur at lunchtime or during physical education activities even if outdoors.
- Children who are identified as a close contact in a setting outside of school such as in a family/home setting or in a sports team setting, are **not eligible** to participate in Screen and Stay.
- Students participating in Screen and Stay will not be allowed to participate in activities that “generate increased amounts of aerosol-sized respiratory droplets” such as occurs when playing an instrument, singing, or aerobic physical education activities. Alternative activities will be provided. This restriction is in place for 14 days.
- Students will not be allowed to participate for 14 days in extra-curricular activities.
- Families must provide an attestation that they understand the protocols, agree to the restrictions including remaining quarantined when not in school, and are willing to conduct a daily health screening.
- Screen and Stay does not apply to pre-kindergarten students. Pre-K students must continue to quarantine outside of school.
- We will now define the quarantine period for students who cannot, or choose not, to participate in Screen and Stay as 8 days IF the child receives a negative PCR test given between day 5 and 7.

We thank you for your continuing support and cooperation of our strategies and for keeping your child at home whenever symptoms of COVID-19 are present.

Sincerely,



Kelly M. Lyman