



North Stonington Public Schools

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November 15, 2021

How to better understand the Screen and Stay Program

- This program is for unvaccinated or partially vaccinated students in grades K-12.
- Pre-school students are not eligible for the program.
- By definition, an individual is considered **fully** vaccinated 14 days after the second vaccine is administered.
- The S&S program applies only to students for close contact in class or on the bus. In any other situation, especially the cafeteria, if a student is in close contact, they will have to be quarantined for 10 days and not participate in athletics for 14 days.
- The most important mitigation strategy is still our students wearing a mask and social distancing as required by the present DPH/SDE guidelines in school and on the bus.
- Mask breaks, recess and PE protocols are still in place.
- In order to be included in the S&S program, the question is, does the student meet the present definition of a "close contact?"
- If not in close contact, or, fully vaccinated, the child can continue on in school in the classroom and participate in extracurricular activities, including athletics.
- If your child is a close contact and not fully vaccinated, then the student would be eligible for the S&S.
- If a parent chooses not to have their child S&S, their child would be quarantined for the 10 days.
- Again, if the student is an athlete and a close contact, whether or not he/she is in the S&S program, the student cannot participate in athletics for 14-days.
- Due to the rollout of vaccinations for children 5-11 years old just being underway, there will be much more consideration for the institution of the S&S program for the elementary school than at Wheeler. That is mainly due to the high percentage of students at Wheeler that is already vaccinated which makes the process of contact tracing much easier. Students who are fully vaccinated and are asymptomatic do not have to quarantine.
- As a result of the limited number of students presently vaccinated at the elementary school, sometimes contact tracing can take several hours.
- When the school receives word of a positive case, the contact tracing begins. When you receive a call at any point in the school day that your child is a close contact, here is what will occur:

- ❖ You will receive a phone call from the nurse that they had found out that day of a positive case and your child is a close contact.
- ❖ If you do not choose the S&S program, your child will need to be dismissed and be quarantined for 10-days.
- ❖ If you choose the S&S program, your child will be allowed to stay in school for the remainder of the day; HOWEVER, they cannot take the bus that afternoon. If the next morning a parent screens their child and they are symptom free, they will be allowed to attend school that day and be bussed as well.
- ❖ If you are in the S&S program, the screening will be done by a parent or guardian and take place at home every morning for the duration of the quarantine, 14-days.
- ❖ For the S&S program, you will be given paperwork.
- ❖ If you are choosing the S&S program you will need to fill out Appendix 1, “your intent to comply with the S&S program.”
- We will be posting on our website a popup link to Google documents so that you can access them electronically. They will be posted by the end of the day today.
- You will need to return Appendix 1 to school the following day, before your child starts school, otherwise your child will not be able to attend school. That form will be filled out once at the beginning of what would have been the start of the quarantine cycle, but not need to be filled out and returned every day.
- If later in the year your child should become a close contact again, you will need to fill out that form again and for every time that your child is a close contact.
- Another document for those choosing the program is Appendix 2, the daily symptoms checklist. Parents will be responsible for the daily screening of their child.
- The check list is not to be returned to school. It is yours to keep.
- While we are hoping to keep children in school and eliminate unnecessary quarantining, *we implore parents to take the matter of screening very seriously.* If your child is experiencing any of the symptoms at home, please do not send them to school and have your child tested immediately and contact the school nurse.
- If your child is in the S&S program, at any time that your child exhibits any of the symptoms in school, you will be called and based on the S&S guidelines, they will have to go into the quarantine protocol.
- For any other student not in the S&S program, who are not a close contact, and are not feeling well, the nurse will evaluate as they would for any child’s illness. We realize that we are approaching winter when colds and the like become prevalent and should not be confused with COVID.

I’m sure that the question is on everyone’s mind will be when would the S&S program begin in NoSto.

We have spent a great deal of time balancing an expedited approach to the rollout and making sure the program is successfully instituted and we have turned over every stone in an effort to make sure students and staff are safe. We also want to be sure that we are confident on the distribution and handling of the necessary forms and documents as well as the recording of all documents.

Nine-days from today will be an early dismissal for the Thanksgiving Holiday Weekend. My nurses and admin team as well as I, agree that we should start on Monday, November 29th. Given that

we will have 8 1/2-school days to contend with prior to the Thanksgiving break, we felt that would be the best time to begin S&S. In case the DPH/SDE should alter the program as they did slightly this week that pendency of time will help us to make adjustments to our plan and begin on the 29th.

IMPORTANT: If any student is still in quarantine prior to that date and is still within the 10 days of quarantine, your child can return in the S&S protocol on that Monday the 29th, provided that Appendix 1 has been returned to school and the child is screened.

Again, we are continuing to monitor the new COVID-19 regulations and will make changes to the plan as necessary. The appropriate documents will be posted on our website.

Be safe!

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Superintendent of Schools