



## North Stonington Public Schools

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Good morning,

As you are probably aware, last week the CDC made considerable changes to the COVID-19 regulations. Over the winter break, there were a number of emails going back and forth from the superintendents in my group evaluating the changes as well as our present protocols. We also received from the Ledge Light Health District their "isolation and quarantine materials to reflect the latest changes recommended by CDC and endorsed by DPH." This morning I met in each building with the administrators and nursing staff and we reviewed the new guidelines which went into effect immediately.

The new guidelines will supersede anything our district presently has listed on our website. Please note that we are all looking forward to our weekly DPH/SDE webinar which will be held tomorrow morning. If any additional information is provided to us, we will make it available to you.

We wanted to let you know of some of the more notable changes:

- The isolation days for those who test positive for the virus has been reduced from ten (10) to five (5). That's five (5) full days of isolation beginning the day after the diagnosis. Students returning from the new 5-day quarantine MUST wear masks at all times for an additional five days. The only time they can remove their mask is at lunch. Proper masking over the nose and mouth is a must during these next five days.;
- The reduction of quarantine days from ten (10) to five (5). Again, that's 5-full days beginning the day after the close contact; and
- Contact tracing has been eliminated in the school setting. If you or someone in your family has had close contact in the community, the quarantine period is, again, five (5) full days.

Students quarantined with a positive result will still be **quarantined from sports for 14 days** until we receive additional guidance from the CIAC. We will forward that information as it becomes available.

Today, we were supposed to begin the **Test to Return** program. Given the new guidelines, you will not have to show documentation to the nurse after your child has completed the isolation period; however, your child needs to be symptom free and without a fever before the return to school.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your school or my office. We realize that COVID-19 continues to evolve and we will do the best that we can to follow the guidelines and safely keep schools open.

Sincerely,

Peter L. Nero  
Superintendent of Schools