

WEBUTUCK CENTRAL SCHOOLS

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Dear Webutuck Families and Staff,

We have been working closely with the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) to monitor the effects of the Omicron COVID-19 variant and following updated New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) guidance. Formal contact tracing efforts are winding down, and orders of quarantine will no longer be issued by the County, or by schools on the County's behalf. Current school guidance emphasizes, and depends on, personal responsibility to contain the spread. This strategy requires that:

- those who know they are positive to isolate themselves (and if it's on a home test, report their positive test result)
- symptomatic individuals self-isolate and obtain timely testing to determine if they have been infected with COVID-19
- if they test positive, informing their known close contacts, and for those who learn they are contacts, self-quarantining as appropriate.

Moving forward, the Webutuck Central School District (WCSD) will now follow the new DBCH and NYSDOH guidance. **As we transition to align ourselves with this updated guidance please note that all quarantines and isolations that were issued before this guidance was formally adopted must be completed.**

Below are some of the important changes and information to guide you:

- **FULLY VACCINATED** - is now defined as being boosted, if eligible.
 - Pfizer booster for 12-year-olds and older are due 5 months after 2nd dose.
 - Moderna booster for 18-year-olds and older is due 6 months after 2nd dose.
 - J&J booster due 2 months after 1st dose.
 - You are considered fully vaccinated 14 days after the booster.
- **COVID-19 POSITIVE RESULTS** - those who know they are positive are to isolate themselves, inform known close contacts, and complete the [Affirmation Of Isolation](#). Additionally, please notify your school nurse.
- **CLOSE CONTACTS** - The District will notify parents/guardian and staff, via email, of a potential exposure date. Families who do not have an email address will be contacted via phone.

- If your child received a booster when eligible, received their second dose of COVID vaccine within the last five months, or had a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 90 days, there is no need for your child to quarantine.
- Otherwise, your child may need to quarantine for five days (last date of contact is Day 0), wear a well-fitting mask around others, and eat lunch in a separate location for an additional five days. If you or your child are aware they were a close contact with an individual who had symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19, please complete an [Affirmation Of Quarantine](#). Even if your child must quarantine, they are encouraged to attend school by participating in our Test to Stay program. NOTE - Testing strategies such as TTS cannot be used for participation in extracurricular activities as this is inconsistent with quarantine guidance.
- **TEST TO STAY** - All Testing will take place in the nurses offices of the respective building at the start of each school day.
- **WEEKLY TESTING** - The District offers weekly COVID testing for staff and students, whose parent/guardian have provided consent. If you wish to sign up for weekly testing, please register at the registration link, <http://drneal.co/webutuck>.
- **FREE AT-HOME COVID-19 TEST KITS** - if you were unable to pick up a test kit you can still pick one up at the District Office.

Regardless of vaccination status, it is essential you and your child are looking out for symptoms including sore throat, nasal congestion or runny nose, fever, cough, body aches, and fatigue. If any symptoms develop, please isolate your child immediately and seek testing.

We continue to be fully committed to sustaining and maintaining in-person learning. We will continue the mitigations we have in place such as universal mask-wearing, social distancing, weekly health screener, and consistent cleaning of our facilities as well as providing the information and support our families need to understand and navigate changing guidance and expectations.

Please continue to report COVID-19 positive results to your building principal as well as to ask questions regarding guidance and protocols.

We will continue to share guidance and information as we receive it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Raymond Castellani
Superintendent

RC/tmt