

November 5, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Simsbury School Staff:

With the newly available COVID vaccine for children aged 5-11, I am optimistic that the region's COVID data will continue to trend in a positive direction in the coming months. As you may be aware, yesterday Governor Lamont shared updated *Screen and Stay* guidance from the CT Department of Health relative to school quarantines. This strategy is being implemented to reduce the number of students being quarantined from school after being identified as close contacts to a positive case. I will be confirming these protocols during my weekly Tuesday call with the FVHD, and we will plan to implement them in our district shortly after that. Please see the scenarios outlined below.

Students and staff who are **not fully vaccinated** may remain in school after a close contact, provided:

1. The only contact occurred during the school day (*no extracurricular or social contact*)
2. If indoors or on a school bus or other transportation, both the contact and the case were masked during exposure
3. During brief unmasked periods (*e.g., snack time, cafeteria*) where 6' or more of space was maintained
4. If outdoors, masked or unmasked but staff supervised (*e.g., mask breaks, PE, recess*)
5. Contact remains asymptomatic (*any symptoms revert to regular isolation/quarantine*)

Scenarios that would not support a *Screen and Stay* approach:

1. Contact with a case during interscholastic or other athletic activities (*other than during supervised PE*)
2. Contact occurring during social interactions or similar activities outside of school
3. Contact where the case or contact is not consistently and correctly wearing a mask indoors (*e.g., eating, wind instrument playing*) and 6' of distance is not maintained.
4. Household contacts (*i.e., the contact lives with case*)
5. The contact cannot consistently and correctly wear a mask

Students in the *Screen and Stay* protocol will be required to submit a daily screening [form](#) on each of the 10 days after exposure. This information will be maintained by the school nurse. While the process may be a bit cumbersome for those families, we are pleased that we have one more tool at our disposal to keep students engaged with in-person learning.

As we move toward the holiday season, I hope that this year we can once again celebrate joyful moments with family and friends.

Sincerely,

Matt Curtis
Superintendent of Schools