



ANSONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

January 3, 2022

Dear Parents and Families,

I apologize for the length of this communication, but it represents a significant adjustment to our school schedule and how Ansonia Public Schools will be managing COVID-19. On January 3, 2022 Ansonia Public Schools opened with considerable staffing issues. I have to make a very difficult decision to close schools through Friday, January 7, 2022 with a return on January 10th, 2022. As well, remote learning is not an option currently so these days will be added to the end of our school year making our tentative last day of school June 10, 2022.

I want to thank our parents and families for their support, patience, and understanding during this time. These past few days have been extremely challenging and have drastically changed our ability to safely staff our buildings and get our students to and from school in a timely manner. At present, we have 25% of staff out due to COVID and we had several bus drivers out as well which resulted in cancellation of transportation. It is a harsh reality and a stark reminder that our community is suffering from another wave of COVID.

Ansonia Public Schools is committed to safety and following the most recent guidelines outlined by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health. The updated guidance can be viewed by clicking on this link. [DPH Updated Guidance](#).

These suggested changes are designed to focus on the increased risk from individuals reporting for school- related activities with active symptoms of illness and the decreased risk for and from individuals who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. In brief:

- Individuals who are even mildly symptomatic with any of the symptoms associated with COVID-19 should immediately isolate at home, test for the virus that causes COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) with a PCR, antigen, or self-test, and remain away from activities outside of the home until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours and other symptoms are significantly improved.
- Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate at home for at least 5 days, or longer if symptoms develop and persist. A mask should continue to be worn for an additional 5 days at all times when around others.
- Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated individuals who are notified that they have had a close contact with an individual who has confirmed or suspected COVID-19 should immediately quarantine at home and test for the virus 5 days after their last exposure to the COVID-19 case. This is especially important in situations where extended high-intensity exposure may have occurred, such as with household contacts, and/or during athletic activities.

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The table below outlines different scenarios that may occur in school settings, considerations for each individual situation, and appropriate actions for individuals and schools to take in response.

	Student/Staff with <i>any</i> COVID-19 symptoms	Student/Staff with <i>no</i> COVID-19 symptoms
<p align="center">If fully vaccinated against COVID-19 <i>(defined as two weeks after second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines or first dose of Johnson & Johnson vaccine)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolate at home. • Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site). • If test result is negative, return to activities when fever-free for at least 24 hrs. and other symptoms are significantly improved. • If test result is positive, isolate for at least 5 days, return to activities on day 6 or later when fever-free for at least 24 hrs. and other symptoms are significantly improved. • Wear a mask at all times when around others for an additional 5 days (i.e., through day 10). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If notified of a close contact with a COVID-19 case outside of the school day:</i> • Continue with in-person learning. • Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site) 5 days after the exposure. • Consider quarantining for 5-days from other activities outside of school, especially if notified of an extended high-intensity exposure (e.g., household contact, unmasked social contact, contact during athletic activities). • Wear a mask at all times during any activities when around others for 10 days.

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	Student/Staff with any COVID-19 symptoms		Student/Staff with no COVID-19 symptoms
<p>If only partially vaccinated (one does of a two dose COVID-19 vaccine or within two weeks of first dose)</p> <p>or</p> <p>Unvaccinated</p> <p>or</p> <p>Vaccination status is unknown</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If notified of a close contact with a COVID-19 case outside of the school day:</i> • Isolate at home for a minimum of 5 days since last exposure to the COVID-19 case. • Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site). • Return to activities on day 6 or later when fever-free for at least 24 hrs. and other symptoms are significantly improved. • Wear a mask at all times during any activities when around others for an additional 5 days (i.e., through day 10). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If no known close contact with a COVID-19 case outside of the school day:</i> • Isolate at home. • Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site). • If test result is negative, return to activities when fever-free for at least 24 hrs. and other symptoms are significantly improved. • If test result is positive, isolate for at least 5 days after symptoms began, return to activities on day 6 or later when fever-free for at least 24 hrs. and other symptoms are significantly improved, and wear a mask at all times during any activities when around others for an additional 5 days . 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>If notified of a close contact with a COVID-19 case outside of the school day:</i> • Quarantine at home from school, extracurricular activities, and other activities for 5 days from the last exposure to the COVID-19 case. • Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site) 5 days after the exposure. • Wear a mask at all times during any activities when around others for an additional 5 days (i.e., through day 10).



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We are sorry for any inconvenience it could have caused but the safety of our students and staff and community is paramount. Ansonia Public Schools is aware that in person instruction is best for our students, however if we cannot do it safely we need to look toward alternatives. We hope that our families stay safe and keep themselves Ansonia strong!

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Sincerely,

Joseph DiBacco
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