

EASTCONN

Where Learning Comes to Life

February 7, 2022

Dear EASTCONN Families, Students and Staff,

As we reflect on the health and well-being of our school community one month after returning from winter break we are pleased to share we are doing well. COVID cases are decreasing and attendance is on the rise!

In response to the positive changes in COVID data in our schools and programs, we have decided to adjust our quarantine practices to meet the current CDC guidance. Beginning February 7, we will use the guidance attached. Please be aware, while we will consider the return of students or staff five days after a symptom onset or positive test, individuals must demonstrate **significant** symptom improvement and be **able to meet the return guidelines**.

We will continue to use early detection strategies by distributing the self-test kits to help further prevent the spread of COVID-19. Monitoring illness with early detection of the virus, maintaining masks and social distancing and making smart social decisions outside of school are the best practices we will continue to foster.

Reminders:

If you need a test kit, contact your school nurse.

- You may request a rapid COVID test kit if you exhibit any COVID-19 symptoms and need to be tested,
- Have had direct exposure to an individual with COVID-19,
- Are unable to obtain a rapid test kit on your own or receive PCR test results in a timely manner.

(For those students or staff who have had COVID-19 in the past 90 days, testing should only be done if directed by a medical provider.)

What is the process for testing and communicating results?

- Students will receive the iHealth test kit to take at home.
- Staff will receive the Flow Flex test kit with instructions.
- Instructions for test administration can be found in English and Spanish within the test kit.
- Directions in additional languages can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/self-test>.
- Once you have completed the test, take a picture of the results and send it to your school nurse via email or text with the student name and parent/guardian name submitting the results, or staff name.
- For students, tests are to be administered by parents/guardians to determine if your child is negative before returning to school. *These tests are not to be used for family members.*

What if the result is positive?

- If a student or staff member tests positive, it is essential that they report the positive test result to their school nurse immediately to obtain further instructions.
- The attached REVISED chart that will be referenced for decision-making and for returning to school.

What if the result is negative?

- If a student or staff member tests negative, it is still essential that they report the negative test result to their school nurse immediately.
- If the test result is negative and there are no symptoms and no known exposure to a COVID-19 case, then the student or staff member should return to in-person learning.

We are confident these revisions to our protocols to match CDC guidance will bring us one-step closer to a schedule that provides continuity of learning for students.

We appreciate your collaboration and wish everyone a warm and healthy winter.

Sincerely,

Diane Dugas, EASTCONN Director of Leading and Learning

Amy Margelony, EASTCONN Director of Pupil Services

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	Students/Staff with <u>any</u> COVID-19 symptom		Students/Staff with <u>no</u> COVID-19 symptoms
<p>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>	<p>Isolate at home.</p> <p>Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site).</p> <p>If test result is negative, return to activities when fever-free for at least 24 hrs. and other symptoms are significantly improved.</p> <p>If test result is positive, isolate for <i>at least 5 days</i>. You may return to school/work on day 6 or later only if you are fever-free for at least 24 hrs. AND other symptoms are <u>significantly</u> improved.</p> <p>A mask must be worn for 10 days from symptom onset at all times when around others. If a mask cannot be worn, you must continue to isolate for a period of 10 days.</p>		<p><u>If notified of a close contact with a COVID-19 case outside of the school/work day:</u></p> <p>Continue with reporting to school or work.</p> <p>Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site) 5 days after the exposure.</p> <p>If test result is negative, continue in person learning/work.</p> <p>Consider quarantining for 5 days from other activities outside of school/work, especially if notified of an extended high-intensity exposure (e.g., household contact, unmasked social contact, and contact during athletic activities).</p> <p>If test result is positive, isolate for <i>at least 5 days</i>. You may return to school/work on day 6 or later only if you are fever-free for at least 24 hrs. AND other symptoms are <u>significantly</u> improved.</p> <p>A mask must be worn for 10 days from symptom onset at all times when around others. If a mask cannot be worn, you must continue to isolate for a period of 10 days.</p>
	Students/Staff with <u>any</u> COVID-19 symptom	Students/Staff with <u>any</u> COVID-19 symptom	Students/Staff with <u>no</u> COVID-19 symptoms
<p>If only partially vaccinated <i>(one dose of a two dose COVID-19 vaccine or within two weeks of final dose)</i></p> <p>or Unvaccinated or Vaccination status is unknown</p>	<p><u>If notified of a close contact with a COVID-19 case outside of the school/work day:</u></p> <p>Isolate for <i>at least 5 days</i> since last exposure to the COVID-19 case.</p> <p>Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site).</p> <p>If test result is negative, complete the 5-day quarantine period. You may return to school/work on day 6 or later only if you are fever-free for at least 24 hrs. AND other symptoms are <u>significantly</u> improved.</p> <p>If test result is positive, isolate for at least 5 days. You may return to school/work on day 6 or later only if you are fever-free for at least 24 hrs. AND other symptoms are <u>significantly</u> improved.</p> <p>A mask must be worn for 10 days from symptom onset at all times when around others. If a mask cannot be worn, you must continue to isolate for a period of 10 days.</p>	<p><u>If no known close contact with a COVID-19 case outside of the school/work day:</u></p> <p>Isolate at home.</p> <p>Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site).</p> <p>If test result is negative, return to activities when you are fever-free for at least 24 hrs. AND other symptoms are <u>significantly</u> improved.</p> <p>If test result is positive, isolate for at least 5 days after symptoms began. You may return to school/work on day 6 or later only if you are fever-free for at least 24 hrs. AND other symptoms are <u>significantly</u> improved.</p> <p>A mask must be worn for 10 days from symptom onset at all times when around others. If a mask cannot be worn, you must continue to isolate for a period of 10 days.</p>	<p><u>If notified of a close contact with a COVID-19 case outside of the school/work day:</u></p> <p>Quarantine at home from school/work, extracurricular activities, and other activities for 5 days from the last exposure to the COVID-19 case.</p> <p>Test for COVID-19 (either self-test or at a testing site) 5 days after the exposure.</p> <p>If test result is negative AND you can wear a mask through day 10, return to school/work. Masks must be worn for the entire 10 days at all times when around others. If a mask cannot be worn, then you must quarantine for the 10 days, returning to school/work on day 11.</p> <p>If test result is positive, isolate for at least 5 days after symptoms began. You may return to school/work on day 6 or later only if you are fever-free for at least 24 hrs. AND other symptoms are <u>significantly</u> improved.</p> <p>A mask must be worn for 10 days from symptom onset at all times when around others. If a mask cannot be worn, you must continue to isolate for a period of 10 days.</p>

EASTCONN will monitor the changes and practices and update them as necessary.