January 3, 2022

Dear Seymour Staff and Families,

This communication is designed to share important, newly updated information related to the Coronavirus and our school district’s safe operating procedures. It is based on the Department of Health and CT State Governor Lamont’s December 31, 2021’s Updated Considerations for Quarantine, Isolation, Testing, and Contact Tracing Policies and Procedures in PreK-12 Schools, which can be found posted on our district website under “Covid-19 Updates and Info.”

Many of you may be wondering why we are not moving into a remote learning model as the Coronavirus is spiking in Connecticut. At this time, neither the Board of Education nor the Superintendent have the authority to move into remote instruction as we did during the last school year, and local school districts do not have the option to provide universal remote learning. Individual students needing to quarantine have, and will continue to have, the ability to participate in learning in the manner we outlined in our re-opening plan this fall. At this time, only the governor, through legislation, is able to implement school or district-wide remote learning. Seymour Public Schools will continue to follow mitigation strategies, all current cleaning/safety protocols and continue requiring all individuals to wear a mask while in our schools.

What has changed?

Families should be aware that Seymour Public Schools will follow the recently released CDC guidelines changing the minimum required days of quarantine from 10 to a minimum of 5 for students and staff. All individuals ending a quarantine period must be symptom free prior to returning to school. Should you have any questions please contact the school nurse.

Additionally, in an effort to help school nurses focus proactively on the identification, early isolation, and management of students and staff with active symptoms that could be related to COVID-19, the CSDE and CT DPH support the discontinuation of routine contact tracing of individual exposures that occur inside schools or during school-organized and supervised activities. We will not be contact tracing in schools for Covid-19. Therefore, the need to ‘screen and stay’ is also discontinued. However, what will continue are our current mitigating practices including:

- Enforcing universal masking rules inside schools
- Taking steps to ensure that periods of unmasking inside the school (e.g., meal periods) are as brief and as distanced as possible.
- Notifying staff and parents/guardians of students regarding positive cases occurring in the class/team/school as appropriate.

Please help us continue to meet our goal this year of “as much uninterrupted in-person learning as possible.” If your child is not feeling well and experiencing any COVID-19 Symptoms, please keep your child home. If your child is testing for Covid-19, you must keep your child home until you receive the test results. If the test is positive, please contact the school nurse for guidance as to when your child can return to school. If your child does not feel well while at school he/she must be picked up as soon as possible, so please have plans and back-up plans prepared should the school nurse contact you accordingly.

Due to the high demand for PCR and antigen testing, Seymour Schools will temporarily accept home testing kits to confirm positive cases of Covid-19, and will also temporarily accept home testing kits for unvaccinated staff who must submit weekly tests on Fridays.

As a final precaution, anyone who traveled over the December break should adhere to the CDC’s protocols and guidelines. https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/travel

We very much want to start this new year of 2022 as we started it in September- healthy, safe, together,...and in person. Please take care of yourselves, and each other.

We look forward to seeing you Tuesday morning, January 4, 2022.

Sincerely,

Dr. Susan Compton, Superintendent 
Vonda Tencza, Associate Superintendent