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WALLENPAUPACK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Keith E. Gunuskey
Superintendent

Jay Starnes, Ed. D.
Assistant Superintendent

January 4, 2022

Kerriann Horan
Business Administrator

Lindsey Shaheen
Board Secretary

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you had a restful and enjoyable Holiday Break! This letter is to notify you of the updated isolation and quarantine guidelines in relation to Covid-19. As you may be aware, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) updated their guidelines in late December. Yesterday, January 3, 2022, the Pennsylvania Secretary of Education on behalf of the PA DOH notified schools to follow the new/lessened isolation and quarantine guidelines. The guidelines include:

- Persons who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 5 days. If after 5 days the patient is asymptomatic or has resolving symptoms (**i.e., 24 hours have passed without fever, without fever reducing medication and other symptoms have improved**) their isolation period is over; however, they should still wear a mask around others until day 10.
- Persons who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and have received a booster vaccine or are within 6 months of receiving their primary vaccine series should wear a mask around others for 10 days, but do not need to quarantine.
- Persons who are unvaccinated or who are eligible (i.e., more than 6 months after primary vaccine series) but have not yet received a booster vaccine must quarantine at home for 5 days, and then wear a mask around others until day 10.
- All exposed persons regardless of vaccination should test on Day 5 if possible.

Our nurses and administrators will be communicating with families that were contacted yesterday to identify new return to school dates. Please be patient as there are numerous calls to make.

We are pleased that the new guidance will reduce the number of days that students are missing school. Currently, we are working on other ways to reduce or eliminate close contact quarantine requirements for our staff and students. For example, we hope to have a Test2Stay Program implemented in our schools shortly. I will provide more information on the Test2Stay program once we have completed the enrollment process.

One of the most important lessons learned from the pandemic is the need to have school open every day for our students. This belief has been echoed throughout our community. We will strive to keep our schools open and safe for our students and staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith E. Gunuskey".

Keith E. Gunuskey, Superintendent