

**WESTERN SUFFOLK BOCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

March 3, 2022

Dear Families,

The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) has released updated COVID-19 guidance for schools. The guidance document and an accompanying Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document are posted to our website in their entirety at wsboces.org/health for your review.

The guidance includes:

Mask Updates

- Masks are optional in all Western Suffolk BOCES and Wilson Tech schools.
- Those who test positive and have isolated at home from Days 0-5 must wear masks on Days 6-10 upon return to school. (*Day 0 is the date of first symptom or date of positive test, if asymptomatic.*)
- Regardless of vaccination status, masking is recommended for 10 days following a known exposure. Testing on day 5 after exposure is also recommended.

COVID-19 Positive Individuals

- Individuals testing positive must isolate for a full 5-day period. The isolation period ends after Day 5 or until an individual has been fever-free (with other symptoms subsiding) for a full 24 hours – whichever period is longer. (*Day 0 is the date of first symptom or date of positive test, if asymptomatic.*)
- Those who test positive and have isolated at home from Days 0-5 must wear masks on Days 6-10 upon return to school.

Close Contacts of Individuals with COVID-19

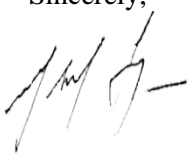
- Identified close contacts, regardless of vaccination status, who are asymptomatic may remain in school.
- School staff will continue to notify families when their child has been identified as a close contact.
- Close contacts should carefully monitor for symptoms.
- Wearing a well-fitted mask, regardless of vaccination status, is recommended by NYSDOH for 10 days after a known exposure to COVID-19.
- Testing on Day 5 after exposure is recommended.

Free COVID-19 Test Kits Available

- Families may obtain free COVID-19 home test kits between 9am and 4 pm on school days from the WSBOCES Administration Office, 507 Deer Park Road, Dix Hills, 11746. Please email nfischet@wsboces.org with any questions.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, you have been our partners in our health and safety efforts and we are very grateful for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Michael Flynn
Chief Operating Officer