



WOODBIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

40 Beecher Road – South
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D. – Superintendent

January 2, 2022

Dear Woodbridge School District Community,

This important letter is an update to [my December 30 letter](#) outlining details related to health and safety at Beecher. As I mentioned then, we were awaiting at that time guidance from the CT DPH on applying to school settings new CDC recommendations for isolation and quarantine periods. CT DPH issued updated options late on December 31, 2021. Since that time, I have consulted with our local health partner QVHD, our Medical Advisor Dr. Shannon Martinello, our WSD administrative team, and other area Superintendents to determine which options, if any, make sense for our District at this point in time. Based on those conversations, we will be implementing the following key changes effective immediately:

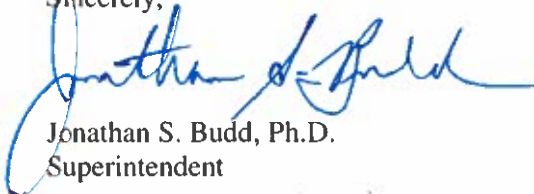
- **Shortening of the isolation period for those who test positive for COVID-19:** Moving forward, WSD individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will need to isolate at home for 5 days, and can leave isolation after those 5 days provided their symptoms have resolved and they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours; if symptoms continue after the 5 days, then the isolation period will be extended until the symptoms resolve. Additional specific guidance to individuals in this category will continue to be provided individually by our administrative team as each situation arises.
- **Shortening of the quarantine period for close contacts:** Moving forward, WSD individuals who must quarantine will need to do so for 5 days, and can leave quarantine after those 5 days provided they are asymptomatic, have been fever-free for at least 24 hours, and preferably can produce a negative COVID-19 test result; if symptoms occur after the 5 days, then the quarantine period will be extended until the symptoms resolve. Woodbridge School District will continue to contact-trace based on in-school exposures, and will continue to participate in “Screen & Stay” as it did successfully in November and December 2021. Please remember that fully vaccinated individuals will not need to quarantine unless they are symptomatic. Additional specific guidance to individuals in this category will continue to be provided individually by our administrative team as each situation arises.
- **Expanded test options:** Due to the relative scarcity of lab testing, home testing results for COVID-19 will be accepted moving forward.

As we have analyzed our school and community data, the changes outlined above will allow our District to continue to ensure health and safety for all at Beecher, while recognizing the updated guidance and science outlined by the CDC.

Based on the need for all our staff to understand the nuances of these changes, and based also on expected high numbers of student and staff absences for which we must accommodate, we will operate a two-hour late arrival schedule on Monday, January 3, 2022, for students only. While I acknowledge that late-arrival changes to our calendar are difficult for many families, in this case we must err on the side of having the time to properly plan for shifts in our operations based on the significant developments over winter recess.

Thank you for your continued support of our community’s health and safety, and please do not hesitate to contact me at any time (jbudd@woodbridgeps.org / 203-387-6631) with any questions, concerns, or feedback.

Sincerely,



Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D.
Superintendent