



WSD Safe Return Update

Woodbridge Board of Education
November 15, 2021
Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D., Superintendent

Key Updates

- Approximately 50 days of in-person learning for 100% of BRS students
- Regular Safe Return Committee meetings
- 14 confirmed COVID-19 cases in BRS community this school year (3 additional since our October meeting); no confirmed cases of in-school transmission
- Optional in-school screening testing for ~100 students began week of Nov. 1
- Quarantine length modified by WSD effective Nov. 9: a child quarantined for 10 days may return after 7 days with a documented negative test from day 5 or later, assuming the child is asymptomatic
- Vaccine for ages 5-11 has become available; QVHD & Griffin Health began pediatric vaccination clinics on Nov. 14
- Screen & Stay option led to Parent/Guardian & Staff Surveys week of Nov. 8, and implementation Nov. 15 based on results

Screen & Stay

- Definition of “close contact” does not change
- K-6 close contacts who meet certain criteria do not need to quarantine:
 - A K-6 close contact who has not been within 6 feet, unmasked, indoors, of the COVID-positive individual does not need to quarantine if the parent(s)/guardian(s) affirm on a form that they will monitor the child’s symptoms for 14 calendar days, and keep the child home if symptomatic
- This definition means that in most cases the school-required quarantines will be limited to students who ate snack & lunch in the classroom around the COVID-positive individual on the day(s) of potential exposure

Screen & Stay

- Screen & Stay is an option for parents/guardians; they may choose instead for their child to quarantine even if eligible for Screen & Stay
- Students participating in Screen & Stay may have modified physical education & music instruction for 14 calendar days
- Screen & Stay is available only to close contacts during the regular school day or on bus transportation; it is not an option for Extended-Day close contacts
- Note: Fully vaccinated students (meaning two weeks after the final vaccine dose) do not need to quarantine in any case, unless symptomatic

Screen & Stay Survey Feedback

- If your child were identified as a close contact who could participate in Screen & Stay, would you affirm in writing that you would monitor your child's symptoms for 14 calendar days, and keep your child home if symptomatic?
 - Parents/Guardians (239)
 - 80% Yes 13% No 7% Not Sure

Screen & Stay Survey Feedback

- Given how snack/lunch are implemented, Screen & Stay would mean that some, but not all, close contacts would be able to avoid quarantine, but the others would need to quarantine and participate in remote instruction.

Would you support Screen & Stay with this as the case?

- Parents/Guardians (239)

- 73% Yes 15% No 12% Not Sure

- Staff (50)

- 38% Yes 32% No 30% Not Sure

Screen & Stay Survey Feedback

- Other Feedback re: Our Handling of the COVID-19 Pandemic at BRS This Fall?
 - Strong job being done (n=28)
 - “Thank you for ensuring quality in-person instruction paired with a very safe environment! Kudos!”
 - “We have been impressed by all of your communications and safety protocols, and are very thankful we moved to the district in 2019. Thank you for keeping everyone safe and in school!”
 - “You’re making the best of a difficult and ever evolving situation. It’s clear that you have the best interests of the students and staff as your focus and are making decisions based on data, and that’s really all we can ask for.”
 - “Beecher has done a great job dealing with a wide spectrum of issues and parents’ concerns without alienating individuals with opposing views. Please continue the good work.”
 - Communication could sometimes be better (n=2)

Screen & Stay Survey Feedback

- Other Feedback re: Our Handling of the COVID-19 Pandemic at BRS This Fall?
 - Support lifting restrictions (n=15)
 - “There is no need for all these drastic measures with a respiratory illness that has a 99.8% survival rate for those under 18 years of age.”
 - Oppose lifting restrictions (n=15)
 - “Scaling back safety measures just in time for the winter months is incredibly stupid and I’m disappointed the people in charge of my child’s education would even consider it.”
 - Oppose encouraging vaccination (n=3)
 - Support encouraging vaccination (n=2)

Next Steps with Screen & Stay

- Overview & FAQ eBlasted to parents/guardians today, and uploaded on WSD website (“Safe Return to 2021-22”)
- Staff Forum scheduled for Nov. 17
- Parent/Guardian Forum scheduled for Nov. 17