



SULLIVAN WEST CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

33 Schoolhouse Road, Jeffersonville, New York 12748

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Interim Superintendent of Schools

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Greetings Bulldogs,

Happy New Year! I hope this letter finds you well, warm, and mostly dug out from our recent snowstorm. Over the past four weeks there have been multiple communications from the Governor's office, New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH), and Sullivan County Public Health (SCPH) regarding COVID-19. This communication serves to provide the most recent updates and to highlight some changes. There are several helpful links in this letter which will also be posted on our District's website under COVID-19 resources. Please take a moment and review this important information.

Isolation and Quarantine Periods

Please see the chart on page 3 to clarify isolation and quarantine periods with regard to school attendance and extracurricular activities.

Universal Masking

Masks are required in schools at all times, except when actively eating, drinking, or participating in music instruction as part of a regular academic curriculum where masking is impractical and social distancing has been implemented. When students are outside and able to maintain six feet of distance, masks are not required. **If students, teachers, or staff are returning from isolation or quarantine a well-fitted mask is recommended for the next 5 days.** A well-fitted mask is defined as a mask with a nose wire and multiple layers. For example, a disposable surgical mask, multi-layer cloth mask, or a KN95. KN95 masks are available for faculty and staff members. If you have a question regarding your student's mask, please reach out to your school nurse.

Contact Tracing

Last week the NYSDOH and SCPH both ended contact tracing in the community. Sullivan West Schools will continue to contact trace and will notify parents when their student has been in close contact with a COVID-positive individual.

Sullivan County Department of Health has set up a Self-Attestation Portal where you can report COVID results. <https://www.sullivanny.us/Departments/Publichealth/Coronavirus/Attestation>

Additional Forms are available at the NYSDOH website

[NYSDOH Affirmation of Isolation](#)

[NYSDOH Affirmation of Quarantine](#)

Testing Information

Testing of staff who have not produced evidence of vaccination has begun at both the Jeffersonville and Lake Huntington Schools. Sullivan West continues to explore Test to Stay (TTS) programs for all staff and students, which were approved by Sullivan County Public Health on January 7th. Due to the latest information last week new guidance on TTS programs is expected for schools. We will need all this information in order to meet the TTS program guidelines. In the meantime, we have received test kits from the NYSDOH. **If you are concerned about your student's personal exposure or symptoms you may request a test kit from our school nurses, Mrs. Durkin and Mrs. DuBois.**

Vaccination Clinic

Sullivan West is working with Sullivan County Public Health to hold a vaccination clinic, including boosters, at our Jeffersonville campus. Communication regarding this event will come in the following weeks.

I would like to express our continued appreciation for everyone's patience and understanding as we work through these recent changes. One thing that we continue to see is smiling students in our schools at all levels. We continue to thank each of you, our students' parents and guardians, for reinforcing the importance of health and safety measures including appropriate mask wearing, social distancing when possible, handwashing, and staying home when ill. These measures will be of significant continued importance as we work to ensure that our schools remain open for in-person learning during this current surge in COVID-19 cases.

As we shared previously, we continue to plan for daily in-person teaching and learning for all students going forward, as has occurred every day this school year. However, given the unpredictability of the current situation, it is important that all of our families have a contingency plan in the event that remote learning needs to be implemented for a short period of time. We encourage you to consider how your child(ren) will be best able to learn remotely in the event that schools must be closed due to staffing issues or a governmental directive.

Thank you for your support of Sullivan West Schools. If you have any questions regarding this communication, please feel free to contact me at bresslerkat@swcsd.org or (845) 482-3000.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Bressler

Kathleen Bressler, Ed.D
Interim Superintendent of Schools

Isolation and Quarantine Periods



ISOLATION		QUARANTINE		
Students, Teachers, and Staff Who Test Positive for COVID-19 AND Do Not Show Symptoms	Students, Teachers, and Staff Who Test Positive for COVID-19 AND Show Symptoms	UNVACCINATED Students, Teachers, and Staff Who Come Into Close Contact with a COVID-positive individual	FULLY VACCINATED Students, Teachers, and Staff Who Come Into Close Contact with a COVID-positive individual	FULLY VACCINATED + Booster Students, Teachers, and Staff Who Come into Close Contact with a COVID-positive individual
Regardless of vaccination status	Regardless of vaccination status	Includes individuals who are not fully vaccinated/who have not completed a primary vaccine series (Ages 5 -17: two doses of Pfizer; Ages 18 +: two doses of Pfizer/Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson)	Includes individuals who are fully vaccinated: 2 weeks after the final dose in the series (Ages 5 - 17: two doses of Pfizer; Ages 18 +: two doses of Pfizer/Moderna or one dose of Johnson & Johnson)	Fully Vaccinated Ages 5-11, where booster is not yet available AND Ages 12- adults fully vaccinated but not yet eligible for a booster OR Ages 12- adults fully vaccinated and boosted.
Can end isolation and return to school after 5 days. Day 0 (Zero) is the day of the positive test.	Can end isolation and return to school after 5 days. Day 0 (Zero) is the first day of symptoms.	Can end quarantine and return to school after 5 days from their last close contact (if not showing symptoms)	Do Not Need to Quarantine <i>during the academic school day*</i> , including transportation to and from school, if Not Showing Symptoms	Do Not Need to Quarantine <i>during the academic school day*</i> , including transportation to and from school, if Not Showing Symptoms
If symptoms develop, the 5-day isolation period starts over.	Return after 5 days is contingent upon symptoms improving and being fever-free for 24 hours without use of fever-reducing medication.	If Showing Symptoms, Should Quarantine and Contact Health Care Provider and school nurse.	If Showing Symptoms, Should Quarantine and Contact Health Care Provider and school nurse.	If Showing Symptoms, Should Quarantine and Contact Health Care Provider and school nurse.
Can resume extracurricular activities when Isolation period is over.	Can resume extracurricular activities when Isolation period is over.	Can resume extracurricular activities after quarantine period is over.	Can resume extracurricular activities after 5-day quarantine period is over.	Can resume extracurricular activities, if Not Showing Symptoms.

* The academic school day is as follows:
Sullivan West Elementary 8:45 a.m. - 3:27 p.m.
Sullivan West MS/HS 7:29 a.m. - 2:22 p.m.

Additional Links

[SCPH Decision Trees for Isolation and Quarantine](#)
[NYS Approach to Isolation and Quarantine](#)