

Dear Parents and Staff,

As the holidays get closer and families are making plans, it is important to remember the care with which we have approached this school year to keep our students and staff safe. Please keep in mind during the upcoming holiday season the importance of wearing face masks, social distancing, washing hands, and quarantining when you do not feel well. It is so easy to forget when you haven't seen Grandma or Uncle Jim in months and are eager for a hug from our loved ones.

Additionally, Governor Lamont is recommending limiting non-essential travel outside the state. However, if you *must* travel outside Connecticut, be certain to check if your destination is on the CT Travel Advisory list at <https://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus/travel>. If you are entering Connecticut from one of these states you must fill out a travel health form online at CT.gov/travelform. Upon returning from an affected state or country where you visited for 24 hours or longer, you must self-quarantine for 14 days from when you were in the affected location. Travelers can also choose to be tested for COVID-19 instead of self-quarantine if the following criteria is met:

- The test must be the RT-PCR test, not a rapid antigen or antibody test,
- The test must be completed 72 hours prior to arrival in Connecticut or at any time following arrival in Connecticut,
- The result of the test is negative, and
- The individual has provided written proof of the negative test result to the Commissioner via email to DPH.COVID-Travel@ct.gov or via fax to: 860-326-0529.

If the test results have not been received the traveler must remain in self quarantine in Connecticut until the negative results are submitted to the Commissioner. See the CT Travel Advisory website for more information. Keep in mind that our ability to keep our schools open is dependent on keeping teachers and students healthy and out of quarantine.

We want everyone to stay healthy and safe as we make our way through to the new year. We hope for an effective vaccine and a return to a more normal existence in the near future. But in the meanwhile...stay vigilant!

Sincerely,

Patricia Charles, Ed.D
Interim Superintendent
Westbrook Public Schools
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