

**REGION ONE SCHOOL DISTRICT****Warren Turnpike Road
Falls Village, CT 06031****Central Office (860) 824-0855****Pupil Services (860) 824-5639****Fax (860) 824-1271**

September 25, 2020

Dear Region One families,

I hope that this letter finds you well. We have had a positive start to the school year and it is clear that teachers and students are happy to be back together in the classroom. To be sure, it is a different experience and there is a continuing need for adjustments to the school environment, but everyone is working hard to resolve challenges as they arise and to ensure that all students are learning in a safe and healthy environment.

As we have been saying since the early summer, there will be many changes as we learn how to be in school in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. One of the areas that has proven to be a challenge in other school systems is how to decide when to quarantine and to not send your children to school. There have been several instances of school systems temporarily closing due to improper quarantining when there is concern for COVID-19 infection in a student or in a member of a student's household. This letter explains the Region One procedure for quarantining based on the advice of the Department of Public Health and the Region One Medical Advisor. We recognize that this is more conservative than CDC guidance, but we feel this is appropriate to keep our students healthy and present for in-person learning in our schools. Please follow these guidelines when your child is ill:

- Keep your child at home, call the school nurse, and consult your healthcare provider.
- If the healthcare provider recommends a COVID-19 test, or if you as a parent/caregiver request that your child be tested for COVID-19, the child being tested and everyone in the household should remain at home until test results return. This step will significantly decrease exposure risk to other students, teachers, and staff. Please inform the school nurse when your child is being tested, the date of the test, and when you expect to receive results. You should call the school to report results as soon as you receive them. If the testing is a screening test (e.g., done for a medical procedure), your child does not need to home quarantine.
- If test results are negative, the child may return to school if they are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms of illness are improving. All other children and family members in the household may return to school as long as they did not develop any symptoms of illness.
- If test results are positive, the child affected should stay home for 14 days from the onset of symptoms. The student may return after the 14 days as long as their symptoms have improved and they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without fever-reducing medication. The remainder of people in the household must remain home for 14 days from their last exposure to the positive person. You will receive guidance from the Department of Public Health and/or your school principal on the exact timing of quarantine. If any other household members develop symptoms, they should seek care from a medical professional, and notify the school nurse.

In order to reduce COVID exposure risk and continue Region One's success thus far, students should not come to school and should be quarantined if any of the adults in the household are being tested because they are suspected of having COVID-19. If the adult tests negative, students do not need to quarantine any longer and may return to school unless the household is instructed differently by the Department of Public Health or by their family doctor. If the adult tests positive, students should continue to quarantine and not come to school for 14 days from the time testing was performed.

Students who are going to be absent from school for several days due to illness of any kind should obtain a note to return to school from their pediatrician or family doctor. For these extended absences, they may become distance learners according to the guidelines provided by each school.

We understand the inconvenience that these guidelines may impose on families; however, we are working hard to maintain a healthy school environment so that our students stay in school in-person for as much of the school year as possible. Please reach out to your school nurses, principals, teachers or me with any questions.

Thank you for your support in following these guidelines and we hope that you all remain safe and healthy.

Best,

DocuSigned by:

Lisa Carter

Interim Superintendent