



December 22, 2021

ACES Behavior Services Notification of a Positive Case

Dear Parents and Community Members:

On December 21, 2021, Area Cooperative Educational Services was notified that an ACES Extension Therapy Service community member has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). The affected individual has been instructed to remain home in self-isolation for at least 10 days as per the Connecticut Department of Public Health guidelines. In consultation with the Quinnipiack Valley Health Department (QVHD), the family members have also been instructed to self-quarantine and be tested for COVID-19.

Under the local health department's direction, any person one who is considered a "close contact" with this individual has been or will be contacted by the school, state, or local health officials in the town in which they reside. The state or local health dept. will also provide the family with instructions on the appropriate steps to take. For COVID-19, [close contact](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/FallMitigationGuidance.pdf) is defined as any individual who was within **3 feet** of an infected person for at least 15 minutes (cumulative) starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days before positive specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated." (<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/FallMitigationGuidance.pdf>)

The affected individual was last onsite on December 21, 2021. The quarantine requirements are as follows:

- **FULLY VACCINATED**
 - Students and staff **do not need to quarantine** regardless of distance as long as they are asymptomatic. If you are concerned and plan to get tested, please wait at least 5 days after the exposure date.
- **UNVACCINATED**
 - The contact tracing was conducted, and every parent and staff member was given quarantine directions from a school administrator or school nurse. If you have a question, please get in touch with the school.
 - Students and staff who meet specific requirements set by the Connecticut Department of Public Health may return on the 8th day after exposure. Families and staff members should contact a school administrator for those requirements.

Fully-vaccinated individuals are those that are at least 14 days away from their 1st vaccination for the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and their 2nd vaccination for the Moderna/Pfizer vaccine.

Reminder:

CDC reminds everyone that vaccination is the best defense against COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing infection, serious illness, and death. Most people who get COVID-19 are unvaccinated.

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Please continue to:

- Wash your hands frequently, but especially after using the restroom and before preparing or consuming food, using soap and hot water wash for about 20 seconds. Be sure also to wash your fingertips. When soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid coughing or sneezing into your hands or in the air. Always try to cough or sneeze into a tissue, then throw the tissue away; if you do not have a tissue, cough/sneeze inside the elbow of your arm.
- As much as you can, avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Wear a face covering (mask) whenever there is a likelihood that you or your family members will be in the presence of others.
- Implement distancing to the extent practical as part of a layered mitigation strategy in all areas of the school

Below is the list of COVID-19 symptoms for which everyone should monitor in his or her family members:

- ☐ Fever (100.4° Fahrenheit or higher)
- ☐ Chills or shaking chills
- ☐ Uncontrolled new cough (not due to other known cause, such as a chronic cough)
- ☐ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- ☐ New loss of taste or smell

For additional information on COVID-19 symptoms, please see:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Staff and individuals exhibiting any of the above symptoms, or feeling ill, should remain home and call their medical provider to report their symptoms and ask about testing before seeking in-person care at a clinic, physician's office, or hospital.

For more information on what to do if, you or a family member has possible symptoms, a diagnosis, or exposure to COVID-19, please see *Updated Guidance for the Use of Mitigation Strategies in Connecticut's PreK–12 Schools* Connecticut State Department of Education August 19, 2021 available here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/FallMitigationGuidance.pdf>

We will closely monitor this situation, work with QVHD, and provide you with updates as we know more. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas M. Danehy

Dr. Thomas M. Danehy, Executive Director
Area Cooperative Educational Services

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