



October 25, 2021

ACES Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School Notification of Positive Cases as a result of the schoolwide COVID screening protocol.

Dear Parents and Community Members:

On October 23, 2021, Area Cooperative Educational Services was notified that ACES **Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School** community members tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19).

The cases were identified as part of the schoolwide COVID screening protocol recommended by the Connecticut State Department of Health. Students and staff were given saliva based COVID tests to take home and return to school the following day. The samples were then tested by Wren Laboratories for COVID-19. Hundreds of specimens were tested and less than 1% of the specimens came back positive.

The affected individuals have 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 Quinnipiac Valley Health Department (QVHD), the household has also been given instructions.

Under the local health department's direction, any **UNVACCINATED** person who is considered a "[close contact](https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/FallMitigationGuidance.pdf)" with these individuals have 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. {See <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/FallMitigationGuidance.pdf> and the *Addendum 5 Update* <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/Addendum-5-Interim-Guidance-for-Responding-to-COVID-19-Scenarios-in-CT-School-Districts.pdf> (dated September 28, 2021)}

The community members were last onsite on October 22, 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 wait at least 5 days before you take a COVID test.
- **UNVACCINATED**
 - The contact tracing was conducted and those families or staff members who were identified as close contacts have been given quarantine directions from a school administrator or school nurse. If you have a question please contact the school.
 - Students and staff who meet specific requirements set by the Connecticut Department of Public Health may return on 8th day after exposure. Families and staff members should contact a school administrator for those requirements.

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The Regional Educational Service Center Serving South Central Connecticut
Peter C. Young Building • 350 State Street • North Haven, CT 06473-3108 • Phone 203.498.6800 • Fax 203.498.6890 • www.aces.org

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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.

Please continue to:

- **Stay home when you are sick.**
- 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:

- | | |
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| ☐ Fever (100.4° Fahrenheit or higher) | ☐ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath |
| ☐ Chills or shaking chills | |
| ☐ Uncontrolled new cough (not due to other known cause, such as a chronic cough) | ☐ 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 the school or my office.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas M. Danehy

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

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