



September 13, 2021

ACES Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School Notification of a Positive Case

Dear Parents and Community Members:

On September 12, 2021, Area Cooperative Educational Services was notified that ACES **Wintergreen Interdistrict Magnet School** community members has tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). 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 Quinnipiack Valley Health Department (QVHD), the family members have been given instructions.

Under the local health department's direction, any **UNVACCINATED** person one 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>)

The affected individuals were last onsite on September 8, 2021. The quarantine requirements are as follows:

- **FULLY VACCINATED** students and staff no **do not need to quarantine** regardless of distance as long as they are asymptomatic.
- **UNVACCINATED** students or staff seated at least **3 feet** away from a case **do not need to quarantine** if exposure was limited to the classroom and the students or staff is asymptomatic and was wearing a mask consistently and correctly.
- **UNVACCINATED** students or staff who were notified that they were close contacts by the school are required to:
 - Self-quarantine for **10 days** from last exposure to the person diagnosed with COVID-19 (**Quarantine through 9/18/21 and return to school/work on 9/20/21**)
- Students and staff **may return on 9/16/21** if they meet the following requirements (<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/Addendum-5-Interim-Guidance-for-Responding-to-COVID-19-Scenarios-in-CT-School-Districts.pdf>):
 1. A **negative COVID PCR or Rapid test result** dated 9/13/21 or later
 2. No symptoms

***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.*

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The Regional Educational Service Center Serving South Central Connecticut
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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 the school or my office.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thomas M. Danehy

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

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