



January 6, 2022

ACES Whitney Academy Notification of Positive Cases

Dear Parents and Community Members:

Area Cooperative Educational Services was notified that ACES Whitney Academy School community members have tested positive for coronavirus (COVID-19). The affected individuals have been instructed to remain home in self-isolation for at least **5 days from the positive test date** and may return to normal work activities on day 6 or later when **fever-free for at least 24 hrs. and other symptoms (cough, congestions, runny nose) are significantly improved** as per the Connecticut Department of Public Health *Updated Considerations for Quarantine, Isolation, Testing, and Contact Tracing Policies and Procedures in Pre-K-12 Schools* (https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Coronavirus/FINAL-School-Contact-Tracing_Quarantine_Update_12312021.pdf).

Testing before returning to school or work on day 6 is recommended. Upon return (from day 6 through day 10), the affected individuals **must** wear a mask at all times when around others.

Staff member of Parent:

Please contact the school/program administrator on day 5 if you or your student cannot return to school or work on day 6 because you still have a fever or your symptoms have not improved.

The last date of exposure was January 5, 2022.

Quarantine Update:

The updated CT Dept. of Public Health guidelines **do not require students and staff members who are close contacts to quarantine regardless of vaccination status**. The update requires that you monitor your child or yourself for any symptoms (**Fever, Cough, Fatigue or tiredness, or Congestion and Runny nose**) over the next 5 days. If any symptoms develop, contact the school immediately, stay home, and get tested. If you are concerned and plan to get tested, please wait 3 days from the date of this notice. Anyone who gets tested for COVID should share the results with the school.

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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The Regional Educational Service Center Serving South Central Connecticut

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Please continue to:

- **Consider vaccination if you have not already done so.**
- **Consider getting a booster shot if you are eligible.**
- **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.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose as much as you can.
- 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 a partial list of COVID-19 symptoms (individual may exhibit one or more):

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Fever (100.4° Fahrenheit or higher) | ☐ Fatigue or tiredness |
| ☐ Chills or shaking chills | ☐ Congestion and Runny nose |
| ☐ Cough (not due to other known causes, such as a chronic cough) | |

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>)

As we know more, we will closely monitor this situation, work with QVHD, and provide you with updates. 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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