



Telephone: 1-800-321-9973

Web: www.westernwayne.org

Fax: (570) 341-1221

MATTHEW BARRETT, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

CYNTHIA A. LAROSA, Ph.D.
Assistant to Superintendent

ROSE E. EMMETT
Business Manager / Board Secretary

Dear Western Wayne Families,

Yesterday afternoon, January 3rd, school districts received the following message from the PA Department of Education on behalf of the PA Department of Health:

At this time, schools should follow the most recent PA Department of Health (DOH) Health Alert (PA-HAN) on Isolation and Quarantine Periods for COVID-19 for the General Population that was released last Thursday. ([615-12/30/2021 - UPD - UPDATE: Isolation and Quarantine Periods for COVID-19 for the General Population](#))

As with previous updates in guidance, schools are expected to follow the new community guidelines. The CDC has indicated that there will be additional guidance for more specific settings, including schools, released in the near future. DOH will review and update the community guidance in the PA-HAN accordingly if and when CDC makes any further adjustments. Please note that this is a very fluid situation. We appreciate your patience as we work through these changes together.

As a result, Western Wayne will be following the new CDC community guidelines for isolation and quarantines. A summary of the new guidelines is listed below:

- Persons who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 5 days. If after 5 days, the patient is asymptomatic or has resolving symptoms (**i.e., 24 hours have passed without fever, without fever reducing medication and other symptoms have improved**), their isolation period is over; however, they should still wear a mask around others until day 10.
- Persons who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 and have received a booster vaccine or are within 6 months of receiving their primary vaccine series should wear a mask around others for 10 days, but do not need to quarantine.
- Persons who are unvaccinated or who are eligible (i.e., more than 6 months after primary vaccine series) but have not yet received a booster vaccine must quarantine at home for 5 days, and then wear a mask around others until Day 10.
- All exposed persons regardless of vaccination should test on Day 5 if possible.

We will continue to update you with any revisions to the guidance as we move forward. Thank you for your continued flexibility and understanding in these difficult times.

Sincerely,

Matthew Barrett, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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