

Community Update - January 2022 - COVID Edition

Dear Charlotte Valley Families and Friends,

I hope this New Year brings hope and wellness to everyone. We are certainly excited to have our students and staff back in school and together again. The New Year has also brought several changes and updates from the CDC, NYSDOH, and our Governor regarding COVID-19 management in our schools. Every update has been designed to keep our students in school for in-person learning to the greatest extent possible while remaining safe and healthy. The most recent updates are as follows:

Important COVID-19 Updates:

1. **COVID-19 Test Availability:** We will be providing COVID-19 test materials for our Test to Stay (TTS) program and to parents upon request through ONC BOCES. TTS allows students to remain in their academic programs while being monitored by testing **daily** over a 7 day period from exposure with a minimum of 3 tests collected.

2. **Test to Stay Program** - As another way to help keep our students in school, Charlotte Valley has applied for and been approved to implement a Test to Stay Program beginning on Tuesday, 1/18/22. Here are the main details:

- Only for students and staff who are identified for quarantine due to potential exposure at school as a result of our contact tracing. **This does not include close contacts in the household or outside of school.**
- Only for individuals who are **unvaccinated and asymptomatic**.
- A **signed consent/permission form** is required for all students who wish to participate. This form is located on our website &/or paper copies of the permission slip are available in the nurse's office for those without internet access.
- If individuals meet the parameters listed above, it allows them to remain in school during their quarantine and they must be tested at the start of the school day, before going to class as directed by the school nurse or an administrator and receive a negative test result.
- This only applies to the instructional school day. Individuals are otherwise quarantined in the community and CANNOT participate in after-school activities or athletics for the length of their quarantine regardless of test results.
- Students are NOT able to participate in any extracurricular activities including but not limited to Athletics, CROP, or after school tutoring during the TTS program.

3. COVID-19 tests for symptomatic students/staff:

- Tests are available upon request based on availability. If a child is exhibiting covid-19 like symptoms they can either see their provider and obtain a PCR test or use **TWO** home antigen tests over a **36 hour** period with a completed student affirmation form found on the Charlotte Valley website and paper copies are also in the nurse's office.

4. Delaware County Public Health Test Reporting Portal

- Public Health is now accepting over-the-counter rapid test results and has established an on-line portal for test reporting. If you take a test at home and it is positive, the results can now be reported by going to www.delawarecountypublichealth.com

5. Shortening Quarantine Period from Ten (10) to Five (5) Days:

- For the NYSDOH requirements please see their website. We will transition to the 5 day quarantine for those who are asymptomatic unvaccinated and have been contact traced.

6. **Vaccines** continue to be available for students aged five and above through Department of Health, pharmacies or health care providers.

7. **Closures** - Just a friendly reminder to be prepared in the event of a closure or remote learning day. This could occur at any time and for any number of reasons, including staff shortages (teachers, support staff, drivers, custodians, food service, etc). A shortage in any one area of operations could result in a decision to close. To this point, we have been able to maintain an "all hands on deck" approach to coverage on a day-by-day basis. We will continue to do so as long as we can do so safely. We closely monitor transmission, potential exposures, and responsible staffing each day on a continuous basis. If there is a decision to close, we will be clear to communicate the type of closure as either a **remote learning day** or **emergency/snow day** (no instruction provided).

Thank you again for doing your part to keep CVCS open and moving forward. Stay healthy and safe!

Sincerely,

James Harter
Superintendent