



**BEACON CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

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**Dr. Matthew Landahl**  
*Superintendent of Schools*

January 18, 2022

Dear Beacon Community:

I wanted to provide an update on changes from the state and county level in terms of schools and COVID-19. You may have seen in the media the past few days that formal contact tracing efforts are winding down, and orders of quarantine will no longer be issued by the County, or by schools on the County's behalf. You can link to these changes [here](#) and [here](#). Despite these changes, our efforts will be very much the same as they have been in the past and based on proactive communication between members of our community and the district.

A huge thanks to our school nursing team for working so diligently through all of this the past few years. It is still vitally important to be on the lookout for symptoms and keep your child home and contact us if your child has symptoms, regardless of vaccination status.

**If your child tests positive for COVID with a test:**

- Keep your child at home.
- Please notify your school nurse, Hannah Aakjar (Nurse Manager) at [aakjar.h@beaconk12.org](mailto:aakjar.h@beaconk12.org) as well as Ann Marie Quartiron (Deputy Superintendent) at [quartironi.a@beaconk12.org](mailto:quartironi.a@beaconk12.org) for guidance and information regarding possible close contacts within the school.
- Notify the county electronically at [www.dutchessny.gov/covidpositive](http://www.dutchessny.gov/covidpositive).
- We will be back in touch about when to return to school.

**If there is a positive case of COVID-19 in school:**

- We will still notify close contacts by email (or phone if there is no email on file) of the need to participate in our Test to Stay program or quarantine as appropriate.
- We will still update the community with case numbers at schools and other relevant information in regular email updates. There will come a time when we start winding down communication on cases, we will let you know when we intend to do that.

**If you are notified that your child is a close contact within the school setting:**

- **There is no need for your child to quarantine if:** your child received a booster when eligible, received their second dose of COVID vaccine within the last five months, or had a confirmed case of COVID-19 within the last 90 days. For reference on booster eligibility please see this [link](#).
- Your child may need to be quarantined for five days (last date of contact is Day 0) if they are not vaccinated or are eligible for a booster and have not yet received it.

- Even if your child must quarantine, they are encouraged to attend school by participating in our Test to Stay (TTS) program. NOTE - Testing strategies such as TTS cannot be used for participation in extracurricular activities (ie. school sports, clubs, etc.) per New York State Department of Health.

### **How Does My Family Participate in Test to Stay?**

- You will be notified by school staff if you can participate by giving a registration link to sign up. You can contact Ann Marie Quartironi at [quartironi.a@beaconk12.org](mailto:quartironi.a@beaconk12.org) or Hannah Aakjar at [aakjar.h@beaconk12.org](mailto:aakjar.h@beaconk12.org) if you have questions about participation in our Test To Stay program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Landahl". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Dr. Matthew Landahl  
Superintendent of Schools

ML:vlj