

November 5, 2021

Dear CPS Families and Staff,

Yesterday, the Governor announced a new COVID-19 protocol called "Screen and Stay." This new protocol is intended to lessen the number of students that need to quarantine as a result of being a close contact with someone who contracted COVID-19. As you may know, anyone who is vaccinated and comes into contact with someone who has COVID-19 does not need to quarantine. However, any person who is within six feet of someone with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes in a 24-hour period is considered a close contact and is asked to quarantine. In a classroom setting that distance is reduced to three feet.

The new "Screen and Stay" protocol will allow individuals who are not vaccinated, and are identified as a close contact, to remain in school under certain conditions. It is anticipated that the State Department of Public Health will release specific protocols and forms sometime today. This message is intended to provide our community with some initial guidance while we wait for the official forms.

Students and staff are eligible to participate in the "Screen and Stay" protocol if the close contact with a COVID-19 case occurs under the following circumstances:

- Exclusively during the school day (no extracurricular or social contact);
- If indoors or on a school bus or other school transportation, and both the contact and the COVID-19 case were consistently masked during the exposure even if brief unmasked periods (e.g., snack time, cafeteria) occurred, as long as six feet or more of space was consistently maintained;
- If outdoors, the individuals were masked or unmasked but were supervised by staff (e.g., mask breaks, physical education, recess);
- The close contact remains asymptomatic (any symptoms revert to regular isolation/quarantine).

Examples of close contact scenarios that do not support a Screen and Stay approach would be:

- Contact with a case during interscholastic or other athletic activities (other than during supervised outdoor physical education and recess);
- Contact occurring during social interactions or similar activities outside of school (e.g., birthday parties, dining out, sleepovers);
- Contact where the individuals were not consistently and correctly wearing masks indoors and a six-foot distance was not maintained;
- The contact occurred between members of the same household (i.e., the contact lives with the case);
- If, upon return to school, the contact cannot consistently and correctly wear a mask.

Any individual identified as a close contact and wants to utilize the “Screen and Stay” protocol, will need to have a parent sign a form attesting that they will screen their child daily for COVID-19 symptoms during a 14-day quarantine period. If a student (or staff) is symptom free they may return to school. The form will only need to be signed at the onset of the quarantine period. More information will be shared with families and staff when it becomes available.

In Partnership,

Steve