

MERRIMACK SCHOOL DISTRICT
School Administrative Unit #26
36 McElwain Street
Merrimack, New Hampshire 03054
Tel. (603) 424-6200 Fax (603) 424-6229

KIMBERLY YARLOTT
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

EVERETT V. OLSEN, Jr.
Interim Chief Educational Officer

MATTHEW D. SHEVENELL
Assistant Superintendent for Business

January 12, 2022

Dear Merrimack School District Staff and Parents,

Recently, the CDC developed new COVID-19 guidelines pertaining to Isolation and Quarantine Procedures which the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services has adopted. The Merrimack School District's Health and Safety Task Force has reviewed these new guidelines and has drafted the Isolation and Quarantine guidance documents that outline the procedure and time lines now pertaining to individuals who need to isolate or quarantine due to COVID-19.

Most noteworthy of the revised CDC/NHDHHS guidelines is the reduction of the isolation and quarantine period to 5 days with a recommendation that masks be worn when around other people during the initial 5 days, and also for 5 additional days when the isolation or quarantine has ended. I asked that you carefully review the revised guidelines posted on our webpage <https://www.sau26.org>. Our school nurses will need a few days to contact families regarding changes to return dates for students and will discuss the recommended masking for the 5 days after the end of the isolation or quarantine period. Additionally, the school nurse will explain the change from an individual being "full vaccinated" to "up to date" vaccination (which includes the two COVID vaccinations plus the booster). All students and staff who are eligible for a booster shot and have not yet received it will be given a grace period (if needed) until February 25, 2022 to receive the shot. This grace period pertains to staff and students who have not yet received the booster shot but have been exposed to a household member who has tested positive for COVID-19. Essentially, until February 25, 2022 if a staff member or student has had two doses of the vaccine, but not yet had the booster shot and has been in contact with someone in their household who has tested positive, they will not have to quarantine for the 5-day period. This grace period is in recognition of the current challenge in scheduling a booster shot.

It is important to note that the new CDC/NHDHHS guidelines do not have any impact on the school district's existing mask policies. The guidelines will help students return to school and in-person learning sooner than under the former isolation/quarantine time frames. If you have any questions about the new guidelines, please contact the nurse at your child's school.

My thanks to you again, for helping to keep our students and staff healthy, and our schools open!

Regards,



Everett V. Olsen Jr.
Interim Chief Educational Officer