



BERLIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

238 KENSINGTON ROAD □ BERLIN, CONNECTICUT 06037-2648
OFFICE 860-828-6581 □ FAX 860-829-0832

BRIAN J. BENIGNI
SUPERINTENDENT
OF SCHOOLS

ERIN K. MCGURK, Ed.D.
ASSISTANT
SUPERINTENDENT

LINDA HOLIAN
DIRECTOR OF PUPIL
PERSONNEL SERVICES

ASHLEY L. DORSEY
DIRECTOR OF
FINANCE

JEFFREY P. CUGNO
DIRECTOR OF
OPERATIONS

DENISE M. PARSONS
DIRECTOR OF
HUMAN RESOURCES

January 18, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on a change in our current contact tracing procedure. On December 31, 2021, the Connecticut State Department of Education and Connecticut Department of Health began to allow school districts to elect to move from 10 days to 5 days as the minimum quarantine time and to change the procedure for contact tracing. The Berlin Public Schools adopted the 5 days instead of 10 days of quarantine time on Monday, January 3, 2022, but did not elect to make any modifications to the contact tracing procedure.

Effective Wednesday, January 19, 2022, the Berlin Public Schools will be implementing the new contact tracing procedure. Our new contact tracing procedure is different at each level and is specified below:

Elementary Schools: All contact tracing will be done by the entire classroom. (Example: If a student or staff member is positive for COVID-19, all parents and guardians of students in that classroom will be notified by email that a positive individual was identified.)

McGee: All contact tracing will be done by the team. (Example: If a student or staff member is positive for COVID-19, all parents and guardians that have a student on that team will be notified by email that a positive individual was identified.)

Berlin High School: All contact tracing will be done by grade level. (Example: If a student or staff member is positive for COVID-19, all parents and guardians that have a student at that grade level will be notified by email that a positive individual was identified.)

Our goal is to modify the requirements of our previous plan while still informing parents and guardians if their child has potentially been in contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. The implementation of this new model will only require students that test positive for COVID-19 to quarantine as we will no longer be designating students or staff as close contacts during the school day. It is still very important to note that a student may be designated as a close contact outside of school and be required to quarantine based on this event occurring outside of the school day. We look forward to working with parents and guardians to ensure the continued safety of our students and staff as we continually look for improved ways to navigate during these challenging times. If you have any questions, please contact your school principal, Director of Safety, Security and Residency John Schmaltz, or me.

Sincerely,
Brian J. Benigni
Superintendent of Schools