

January 2, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! I would like to share some recent updates before welcoming everyone back to school tomorrow, Monday, January 3, 2022.

At this time, neither the Board of Education nor I have the authority to move into remote instruction as we did in Berlin last year after each school break. The most recent legislation does not allow local school districts the option to provide universal remote learning for students as this can only be granted by the governor through legislation. Please know the Berlin Public Schools will continue to follow mitigation strategies, all current cleaning/safety protocols and continue requiring all individuals to wear a mask while in our schools.

Based on the updated guidance from the Connecticut State Department of Education and the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the Berlin Public Schools will follow the recently released CDC guidelines changing the minimum required days of quarantine from 10 to 5 for students and staff. See [Updated Considerations for Quarantine, Isolation, Testing, and Contact Tracing Policies and Procedures in PreK-12 Schools](#). It is important that all individuals ending a quarantine period be symptom free prior to returning to school regardless of the number of days in quarantine. Should you have any questions please contact the school nurse or administration.

If your child is not feeling well and experiencing any COVID-19 Symptoms, please keep your child home. If your child is testing for Covid-19, you must keep your child home until you receive the test results. If the test is positive, please contact the school nurse for guidance as to when your child can return to school.

For those families that have traveled over the break (domestically or internationally) please adhere to the CDC's protocols and guidelines. <https://portal.ct.gov/coronavirus/travel>

The State of Connecticut will be distributing at-home rapid test kits to school districts for distribution to families. We will update you once we have more information. We continue to work in collaboration with the Central Connecticut Health District and we recognize that our policies and practices may need to be adjusted as additional information and guidance is provided.

I wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

Brian Benigni