

Dear Willsboro CSD Parents and Guardians,

As we near the end of the first month of the new school year, we want to express our appreciation for your support and assistance in helping our school return to in-person learning. We know that these are unusual times and extra effort is required by everyone to ensure the safest possible learning environment.

Today, I want to share the updated local and NYS Department of Health interpretation of the guidance regarding when our students exhibit COVID-19 symptoms as listed below.

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|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fever 100° or greater | <input type="checkbox"/> | Muscle or body aches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Chills | <input type="checkbox"/> | Headache |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New cough | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sore throat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Congested or runny nose | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | New loss of taste or smell | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nausea or vomiting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Fatigue | <input type="checkbox"/> | Diarrhea |

Schools must now require a COVID test for anyone sent home with any of the above symptoms. Linda Beers, Director of Public Health at the Essex County Health Department stated, “Although we understand that the return to school criteria set forth by the NYSDOH places undue hardship on students, staff, families, and our healthcare systems, we have to adhere to the current guidelines for reopening schools at this time. We are working through our channels here to advocate for a more practical approach to getting students and staff back to school following an illness and will update the resources for our school districts as soon as this happens.”

All schools must follow New York State Department of Health and Local Health Department guidelines for returning to school or work. **This return to school protocol must include at minimum: documentation from a health care provider evaluation, negative COVID-19 test results, and symptom resolution, or if COVID-19 positive, release from isolation orders.**

This guidance is designed to ensure that the safest possible learning environment exists in our schools. We understand the challenges these safety requirements may cause and we thank you in advance for your support of this guidance and assistance in helping Willsboro CSD implement these regulations. If you have any questions, please reach out to our school nurse who can confirm this information.

As always, please remember to complete the required health screening questions for your child(ren) each day before school and keep them home whenever they are feeling ill or displaying one of the symptoms listed above.

Thank you and best regards,



Justin Gardner
Superintendent of Schools