



Weston Public Schools  
Office of the Superintendent  
William S. McKersie, Ph.D.

---

---

## MEMORANDUM

TO: WPS Families and Staff

FROM: William S. McKersie, Ph.D., Superintendent

DATE: March 17, 2021

RE: Immediate Change in Self-Quarantine Length

We have been reviewing the self-quarantine length we require when students or staff are determined to have been in close contact with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19. Like many districts in the state, we have required a 14-day quarantine period.

Early this week, the Department of Public Health (DPH) started advising school districts that a 10-day self-quarantine, also approved by the CDC, would be appropriate. It provides the necessary time medically to ensure that an exposed individual most likely has not contracted COVID-19. We have consulted with our public health and medical advisors, and with WPS administrators and the nursing staff. Our public health and medical advisors cautiously support a shift to a 10-day quarantine, given that vaccinations are increasing and there is little evidence of within-school spread. We have been asked to continue to monitor infection rates closely.

**Thus, effective Thursday, March 18, 2021, the WPS will require a 10-day quarantine for any students or staff determined to have been in close contact with a confirmed positive case of COVID-19.** We no longer are requiring a 14-day quarantine. If you are a student or staff member currently on quarantine, you will receive an email later today from your school about adjustments to your return date. We must stress that, whether on quarantine or not, please do not come to school if you do not feel well and have any symptoms suggestive of COVID-19.

**There is one major exception.** WPS athletes--per CDC, DPH and CIAC requirements--must still adhere to a 14-day self-quarantine. This means that a WPS athlete who is on quarantine may return to school after 10 days, but may not return to their team until after 14 days.

As previously stated, vaccinations will eliminate the need for quarantine with any individual. Once an individual is two weeks past their full quarantine regime (be it a one or two-dose regime), and is symptom free, that person does not need to quarantine. At the point of contact tracing, the individual can volunteer the information that they have been vaccinated (we are not allowed to require that information or documentation).

Lastly, the requirements for quarantine following travel will be dependent on Governor Lamont's pending decision on travel restrictions. We always have adhered to the state's travel requirements. We understand that an update on travel restrictions is due out by March 19. We will circulate the update when it is released and confirm that we will be adhering to what we anticipate will be a modified approach.

Friendly reminder: Masking up, maximizing social distancing whenever possible, washing hands and staying home when not feeling well--these are our best tools to prevent COVID-19 spread and keep us in a Full Return/All In schooling mode.