



McDonald, Kelly <kmcdonald@dcrsd.org>

DCRSD Update 03.17.2021

Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>

Wed, Mar 17, 2021 at 5:05 PM

To: Dudley-Charlton Regional School District <notifications@dcrsd.org>

All,

As we complete our third day of full in-person learning for a half day, I write to share a number of important items for you to read and help with.

We are not without some positive COVID cases in our schools and learned that many have expressed a belief that they had seasonal allergies. We do not discredit the thought, but we need everyone to continue to take COVID seriously and stay out of the schools until something is confirmed through COVID testing or from your family physician. I know this is easier said than done, but with increased in-person learning, we need everyone to return to the highest levels of caution when one does not feel well. Please stay home if sick.

Additionally, as a result of full in-person learning for half school days, we shared that physical distancing has been shortened and discussed for months that this would increase identified close contacts if we had a positive case. So, after day three, while we have low incidence of positive COVID, we do have increased incidence of close contacts and quarantining. We know this is frustrating for families as our district, like others, maintained a strict 14-day quarantine. After consulting with our inhouse health care providers, local health agents and Boards of Health, we are preparing to make a change to be more inline with CDC and MA DPH guidelines starting this Friday, March 19, 2021. We will move to the 10-day quarantine and if, only if, the student or staff is symptom free then they may be permitted to return to school. In addition, we will implement the 7-day testing out of quarantine provisions starting Monday April 5, 2021. The Dudley-Charlton COVID Coordinator, [Ms. Anne Marie DeMorris](#) will update our protocols for this Friday, March 19, 2021 through a communication to all. This will be transitional and our expectation is to maintain currently communicated quarantines through this transition.

With the increase of outside activities, to include recreational organizations such as dance, hockey, and baseball, we have had an increase in communication from organization owners or coaches, other town health agents and parents or caregivers. The potential for miscommunication, crossed wires and differing requirements will happen. You must take notice that our priority is the health, safety and well-being of everyone in the Dudley-Charlton RSD. We will process the information with you and make the necessary calls to confirm and apply the right response. This may take a day or two and we greatly appreciate your patience as we do everything we can to get this right. We only have one shot at getting it right as we continue to embrace increased in-person learning for all students. Let us work together here.

With that said, we want everyone to be *in the right* and ask that you continue to communicate with your child's school nurse. All sick individuals must stay home. You are required to complete the daily [self-certification/screening form](#). I know this is an added task to the new daily morning routines, but it truly does work to help keep COVID out of our schools.

As I tour schools, the happiness and joy of seeing our students together is palpable and invigorating. We collectively want to maintain that trajectory for the remaining months and need your help to do so.

Thank you, respectfully,

Steven M. Lamarche

Superintendent of Schools