



McDonald, Kelly <kmcdonald@dcrsd.org>

DCRSD Update 04.16.2021

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

Fri, Apr 16, 2021 at 6:15 PM

All,

I am writing to wish everyone a safe, happy and restful vacation next week. This is a time of year for seasonal change [maybe not today], the promise of a spring filled with outside activities and the sun on our faces. It is my hope that next week will be the right break for everyone to prepare for the remaining weeks of school.

We are excited to welcome back grades 5-12 to full days Monday, April 26, 2021. Our educators and school staff worked extremely hard to be prepared for their return. As we learned from our full day reentry of K-4 students April 5th, the day will feel like a first day of school. Therefore, if you have questions regarding the return to full days April 26, please feel free to contact your student's respective schools. Note, I encouraged school staff to take time for themselves next week so responses to questions may not be instantaneous.

Also, after my opening wishes, I do feel bad that we have to circle back to COVID in this message, but it is still a reality. Next week should provide a reprieve from the increased quarantines we have seen in accordance with the guidance of who qualifies as a close contact. We will move to *testing out of quarantine* after day seven when we return. More specifically, an individual identified as a close contact can be tested for COVID on day five of a quarantine. It must be day five or later and we will only accept **PCR** test results. With a negative test result, a student may be able to return on day **eight** of the quarantine, if symptom free and if we receive a documented negative **PCR** COVID test. There is more required though, the student must register through the school's system of self-certification as self-monitoring of symptoms through day 14 is mandatory. Again, this is a **"must do"** and school personnel may contact individuals testing out of quarantine to ensure we keep COVID out of our schools.

As we are all aware, this has been a draining year for everyone. We shared that with increased in-person learning there would be increased numbers of students identified as close contacts. Communication is critical and our school nurses with the COVID Coordinator make calls home for close contacts in and out of the school day. This is a difficult endeavor but we appreciate your understanding as we continue to work through this incredibly complicated school year.

If traveling out of state next week, we ask that you review the [MA COVID-19 Travel Advisory](#). When we return to school April 26, 2021 it is extremely important that students who have COVID related symptoms stay home. We have identified a number of students have been sent or attend school with symptoms. While this is not widespread, some of the students with symptoms end up being positive cases which compounds the number quarantines. We ask that sick students stay home, please, as the impact on other students is significant.

Lastly, during the school vacation week, if you have COVID related information and communications that are typically share with your student's school nurse, we are respectfully requesting that you send it to the COVID Coordinator, [Ms. Anne Marie DeMorris](#). Ms. DeMorris will start reviewing communications and COVID related information on Thursday, April 22, 2021.

Again, I wish everyone a safe and happy break. Respectfully,

Steven M. Lamarche

Superintendent of Schools