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## DCRSD Update 04.23.2021

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

Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 5:09 PM

All,

We are very excited to welcome all K-12 students to full days this coming Monday, April 26, 2021. We look forward to a strong, in-person finish to the 2020-2021 School Year.

I also write to encourage you to participate in our pooled testing program and share a few adjustments to our protocols in accordance with guidance documents that will assist our collective efforts to safely keep students in school as much as we can for the remaining weeks. We are not far enough away from the COVID world to throw out all of the practices we established this year and nothing is more important than keeping a student home who is not feeling well and exhibiting COVID related symptoms. Let us continue to work together to keep COVID out of our schools.

To help all of us, pooled testing is still available to sign your student up. This is a surveillance testing tool, and I myself participate each week. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has approved funding for pooled testing in the Dudley-Charlton RSD for the rest of this school year. If you are interested in participating, you must complete a **consent** form for your student. Please consider this invaluable opportunity to help keep COVID out of our schools.

As a reminder, we adopted the *testing out of quarantine* after day seven. More specifically, an individual identified as a close contact can be tested for COVID on day five of a quarantine. Testing must be on day five or later. With a negative test result, a student may be able to return on day **eight** of the quarantine, but only if symptom free and if we receive a documented negative COVID test. Additionally, the student must register through the school's system of self-certification as self-monitoring of symptoms is through day 14. This is mandatory or a **"must do"** and school personnel may contact individuals testing out of quarantine to ensure we keep COVID out of our schools.

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services in consultation with Governor Baker's Medical Advisory Board on COVID-19 and other medical advisors approved new guidance for **close contacts** which is now in effect. The new guidance for schools is as follows;

*"Close contacts who were exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual **in the classroom or on the bus while both individuals were masked** do not have to quarantine unless they were within 3 feet of distance of the COVID-19 positive individual for a total of 15 minutes during a 24-hour period. **This does not apply if someone was identified as a close contact outside of the classroom or bus** (e.g., in sports, extra-curriculars, lunch, etc.) or if masks are not worn by both persons at the time of the exposure. All other close contacts must follow the standard protocol for when a close contact may return to school."*

In closing, we hope that everyone had a great break and that you are now prepared for school through June. If there are no further weather-related school closures, the last day of school for students is Friday, June 18, 2021. This is a half-day of school for all students.

Respectfully,

Steven M. Lamarche

Superintendent of Schools