

DUDLEY-CHARLTON REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



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September 9, 2020

Dear DCRSD Families,

As we prepare for this school year and for students to return to their buildings once again, we'd like to review some of the new policies and provide information necessary for a safe and healthy school year.

Attached you will find COVID-19 guidelines for when your student needs to stay home and when they are able to return to school. Please feel free to reach out to your student's school nurse or principal for assistance. It is required by the Dudley-Charlton RSD and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MA DPH) that all students wear face masks that cover their mouth and nose. Gaiters, bandanas and face masks with valves are not acceptable forms of face coverings.

The Influenza vaccination is now mandated by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health by December 31, 2020 for all students (including full-time remote learners). As a reminder, all students in grade 7 and all students age 16 are required to have a meningococcal vaccination on file to attend school. Also, all students in grade 7 are required to have a tetanus booster vaccine to attend school. Due to health care delays of COVID-19, the deadline to submit these immunization records and physical exams was extended to November 16th, 2020. This does not apply to student athletes who must have a current physical exam within 13 months of the start of their athletic season.

There are two exemptions for children who are not appropriately immunized but can attend school:

1. A medical exemption is allowed if a physician submits documentation attesting that an immunization is medically contraindicated; and
2. A religious exemption is allowed if a parent, guardian or caregiver submits a written statement that immunizations conflict with their religious beliefs.

These exemptions, medical or religious must be presented nor renewed at the beginning of each school year through written documentation in accordance with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

We look forward to the start of this school year.

Sincerely,

The School Nurses of the Dudley-Charlton Regional School District

Marilyn Gerrard MSN, RN, NCSN
Heritage School
District Nurse Coordinator

Kareen Powaza BSN, RN
Shepherd Hill Regional High School

Rachael Goetz BSN, RN
Shepherd Hill Regional High School

Christine Harrington M.Ed., BSN, RN
Charlton Middle School

Jill Robichaud BSN, RN
Dudley Middle School

Kathleen Wilson BS, AND, RN, NCSN
Dudley Elementary School

Stephanie Moisan BSN, RN
Charlton Elementary School

Roberta Johnson BSN, RN
Mason Road School

Resource links:

<https://malegislature.gov/laws/generallaws/parti/titlexii/chapter76/section15>

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/new-meningococcal-conjugate-vaccine-menacwy-requirement-for-school-entry-2/download>

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/immunization-requirements-for-school-entry-0/download>

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/faq-influenza-vaccine-requirement-for-school-attendance>

COVID-19 Guidelines

You need to stay home if you have:

Fever 100.0F or higher
Chills
New cough
Shortness of breath
Loss of taste or smell
Sore throat
Headache
Muscle or body aches
Fatigue
Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
Congestion/runny nose

OR

Been within 6 feet distance of someone for at least 10-15 minutes that tests positive for COVID-19 while the person was infectious.

When can I return to school?

*Positive COVID-19 test

May return after 10 days (once cleared by local board of health)
and
No fever for 72 hours without the use of medication
and
Symptoms have improved

*Negative COVID-19 test

Improvement of symptoms
and
No fever for 24 hours without the use of medication
or
Doctor's note indicating alternative diagnosis

*No COVID-19 test

May return after 14 days
and
Symptoms have improved
and
No fever for 24 hours without the use of medication

*Exposure to COVID-19

May return to school after 14 days of quarantine
and
Have no symptoms