



Charleston Elementary School

West Charleston, VT 05872

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Chris Lawson, Principal

<https://ces.ncsuvt.org>

9/24/2021

Charleston Families,

Wow! What a week at CES. The COVID free streak has ended at CES, as you know. The few cases we have had this week have given us a chance to reflect on our current practices and allowed many parents to ask questions. Therefore, I thought I would try to explain the process in detail. Please let me know if that opens up further questions for you.

First, it is imperative that families communicate immediately if their child tests positive for COVID-19. If your child has symptoms for or complains of not feeling well, please do not send them to school. In our school community are students who are immuno-compromised, and therefore a minor cold could mean much more serious outcomes. It is best to keep people not feeling well out of our building. If the number of symptoms, intensity of the symptoms, or frequency of the symptoms is out of the ordinary, please get tested and remain out of the building until you receive your results. Please, again, be sure to communicate with Corrinne Moulton if your child is sick or going to be absent. Her email is Corrinne.Moulton@ncsuvt.org. If your child tests positive for COVID-19, please call the school immediately. If after hours, please contact Chris Lawson at christopher.lawson@ncsuvt.org or call at (802)673-9601.

After someone tests positive, the school is required to complete a "line list" to determine others who have been close contacts. Close contacts are defined by being within 6 feet for more than 14 minutes. Here is a link for you to learn more about the definition of close contacts (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11vTOZEEXXe0foKf4NSRMfBVZRqToljac/view?usp=sharing>).

The school will determine where the person has been in our school--grade, classes, bus, After School program, sports, etc. From that list, we then will call families to let them know they are close contacts and, therefore, need to quarantine before returning to school. The time line begins with the date of symptoms or the collection date of the positive test. People are said to be contagious two days prior to that date, so the school will use that as identifying those who may have come in contact with someone positive for COVID. Day zero is calculated by the date of last contact with the person with COVID during that infectious period. People then need to quarantine for 14 days. However, people may chose to test after 7 days. If the test after seven days is negative, they can then return to school. Due to the guidelines, we will have the class including the positive case be remote during that window due to spending more than 4 hours together throughout the day.

One interesting fact that has come up is in the case of a parent being positive with COVID. In this case, the student is likely a close contact, and therefore needs to quarantine. However, if the student is positive for COVID after that, they then need to be out for 10 days following the positive test. Therefore, students can likely be out of school for close to a month depending on the circumstance.

If students are considered to be close contacts, but have been positive for COVID within the last three months, they are still considered to have natural immunity, and, therefore, do not need to quarantine. People who are vaccinated, and considered close contacts, do not need to

quarantine (assuming no symptoms). If they do have symptoms, however, they do need to stay home and get tested to return.

I am hopeful that this helps clear up our process a bit. We recognize that school cannot completely eliminate the risk of COVID-19. We are hopeful to mitigate the risk as much as possible. The more activities your child participates in, the wider their social circle is, and therefore exposed to more risk. Our school, over next week, will begin to tighten our system more to try to mitigate more risk due to the heightened community transmission rate. Our goals of the mitigation strategies is to lessen the number of potential close contacts. We will do this by instituting pods again throughout our school. This will come with some scheduling shifts for middle school.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns at this time. Thank you for your continued patience and support of our students, staff, and community. We greatly appreciate your partnership.

Upcoming dates and events:

10/4--Youth Risk Behavior Survey

10/7--Early Release Day

10/7-10/8--Conferences (virtual)

10/11--Indigenous People's Day--No School

Sincerely,
Chris Lawson.