



Hillside Elementary School

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Dear Hillside Families,

We received [updated guidance](#) from the Westchester County Department of Health regarding situations when masks are not able to be worn and the implications for quarantining. School districts had understood that students eating lunch outside (and unmasked) were not at risk of being quarantined if exposed to a positive COVID-19 case. For the time being, the WCDOH has clarified that, whether inside or outside, students exposed to a positive COVID-19 case would have to be quarantined.

This confirms guidance we have listed in our *COVID-19 Management Document, 2021-2022* (9.10.21):

Any unvaccinated student, who is seated during lunch or meal times less than six feet from another student diagnosed with COVID-19, will have to quarantine. The quarantine group is limited to those within a six feet adjacency during lunch (i.e., the immediate lunch table).

Vaccinated students in this scenario are not required to quarantine. (8.20.21 & 9.10.21, p. 4)

WCDOH will be reviewing this requirement, but for the time being, they are asking districts to make clear the following:

During meals, snacks, chorus, band, orchestra and bus rides, where masking cannot or may not be maintained or monitored, all individuals meeting the above 6 feet, 15 minutes criteria are considered exposed. Social distancing remains important to avoid exposure. Assigned seating should be used whenever possible to limit the number of individuals who are considered exposed, excluded and subject to quarantine. In the absence of such seating or specific information, all students in the room, bus, or activity etc. may be considered exposed.

Based on this guidance, we will be assigning seating for outdoor lunch as we do for indoor lunch. This will enable us to identify specifically which students may need to quarantine if exposed to a positive COVID-19 case. Even with this change, we still are able to limit the number of students required to quarantine.

We appreciate your patience and support as we manage frequent changes in how we are guided to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Warm regards,

Amy Cazes
Principal

Michael LaRocco
Assistant Principal