



Dear Staff and Families,

Public health officials in Connecticut have confirmed that the first two cases of the COVID-19 variant have been detected in the state. This is the same variant initially discovered in the United Kingdom. This variant virus is widely assumed to be associated with increased transmission. It is not, however, assumed to be more deadly. Personal protective measures, such as mask wearing, distancing in public, and hand washing will still limit the spread of the variant.

St Rose School will continue to be diligent in our process for managing COVID-19 and the new variant exposure at school. We know that new cases will continue to be reported in the coming months, but we are prepared with mitigation strategies and the strength of the health and safety protocols that we have had in place all year.

When a positive case is identified and there has been direct exposure at school, the following will occur:

- **A robo call will be used to notify parents of the need to pick their child up at school due to an exposure. (Please be sure that you have a plan to have your child picked up if you are unavailable)**
- **The school nurse will make follow-up phone calls to parents to provide quarantine information and to answer questions.**
- **A follow-up email will be sent to parents summarizing quarantine information.**

The CDC and CT Department of Public Health (DPH) have stated that the local public health authorities will determine and establish the quarantine options. In order to safeguard our students' ability to remain fully in school, the Newtown health department has established the following recommendations.

**The quarantine period for persons known to be close contacts of cases of COVID 19 will now be 10 days if these conditions are met:**

- **Daily self-monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms has been done and the person has had no symptoms of COVID-19 during the whole 10-day**

quarantine (day 0 is the day of exposure); AND

- Daily symptom monitoring continues after 10 days for an additional 4 days (days 11–14). If any symptoms develop, immediately self-isolate and contact their local public health department or their healthcare provider; AND
- After 10 days, persons need to continue to take the measures needed to prevent COVID-19, including but not limited to: wearing a mask, social distancing and washing hands frequently. These are also summarized here: [How to Protect Yourself and Others](#).

Quarantining Individuals who are identified as direct contacts is one important measure in preventing the spread of infection after an exposure. While we realize that quarantining impacts family life, this strategy has proven to be effective in controlling contagious disease. The school nurse will continue to carefully track all reported positive cases among students and staff. **Please report all positive cases to your school nurse by email at: [nurse@srles.com](mailto:nurse@srles.com)**

If you are traveling, please consult the CT Travel Advisory: [CT Travel Advisory](#) as recent changes have been made.

I am grateful for all of you, for the work that you do to keep our students and our community healthy, safe and ready to learn, and I am hopeful for the impact we will have together in the coming year.

With Gratitude,

Bonnie Nezvesky, RN