



WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Ware Families,

Happy Friday! We continue to see low numbers of transmission of the virus showing up in our schools through our COVID Safety Checks. Last week only one case was identified and another this week. Once identified contact tracing occurs. With our test and stay options, close contact students will take a rapid test and if negative they can remain in school and tested for five days. Unless they test positive on the rapid test, they will have an uninterrupted school year by not having to quarantine during this time. This has been a great addition to our testing protocol as it does not cause an undue burden on our students and families. If you haven't done so already, please consider signing up at www.cic-health.com/consent/ma.

Shortly, the CDC will approve COVID-19 vaccinations for children ages 5-11. At that time, if available, the District will set up a clinic that will afford families the ability to get these vaccines at SMK. Information regarding this will be available soon. If you would like to learn more about the COVID-19 booster shots and vaccines for younger children, consider attending the What You Need to Know about COVID-19 Booster Shots and Vaccine for Younger Children Webinar on Tuesday, November 2nd from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Register to attend at <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eimv191rf1ec00d8&llr=y7eiokcab>. If you are unable to join on Tuesday, the webinar will be recorded and available to watch at the same link.

Thanks to students, families, teachers, staff, administration, and school committee for all their efforts as we work together navigating this transitional year. Being flexible enough to adapt as we go is imperative for our current success in managing during a public health crisis. Students continue to evolve from remote & hybrid learning from the last couple of years back to the expectations of daily rituals and routines needed in establishing an environment that is conducive to learning. This evolution has been easier for some of our students than others. We have noticed some student struggles everywhere from kindergarten through the high school grades. The residual effects of this pandemic are far reaching into places we would have never imagined. This may take a while to get back to pre-pandemic strides; however, we are up to the challenge.

On Tuesday, October 26, 2021, Commissioner Jeff Riley extended the mask mandate until at least January 15, 2022, at which time he will re-evaluate the situation.

Stay well,

Dr. Marlene A. DiLeo
Superintendent

Jennifer Knight
School Nurse Leader