



# WARE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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December 17, 2021

Dear Ware Families,

Happy Friday! As we prepare to ring in a New Year, I would like to wish everyone a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season! I know it has been a long year battling this pandemic; however, last year at this time, students were attending school either in a hybrid learning model or a remote learning model. Due to the mitigation strategies of vaccines/boosters, mask wearing, safety checks (pooled testing), test and stay, and social distancing, this school year all children are in-person, full time, five days a week! Although at times it has been a challenge, we continue to strive to reach our goal of an uninterrupted school year.

In these past few weeks several individuals were out due to COVID, which I felt was in part a fall out from the Thanksgiving break. In addition, the Delta COVID wave is presently making its way through New England as we move squarely into the middle of the holiday season and into the winter months. Knowing that we are all responsible for the health of our community please remain vigilant to this during the upcoming holiday break. We will continue to do everything we feasibly can to manage the heck out of this virus to assure students remain in school, but I can only do it with your help, for which I am truly thankful for. Thank you for your continued help and support through these trying times.

Please find attached a message from the Quabbin Health District Public Health Nurse, Amy Langone, RN, BSN.

Wishing you and your loved ones a Healthy/Happy Holiday and a Happy New Year!! Here's to a healthier 2022 for all of us!!

Stay well,

*Dr. Marlene A. DiLeo*  
Superintendent

*Jennifer Knight*  
School Nurse Leader



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*Serving the Communities of Belchertown, Ware, and Pelham, MA*



WARF

December 17, 2021

I am writing on behalf of the Quabbin Health Department. We would like to express our gratitude to the community during this unrelenting pandemic. We understand frustration is growing, and forbearance is waning. We understand your frustrations regarding the ever-changing DPH regulations we are required to enforce. We understand some regulations seem contradictory and/or lacking logic. We also understand parents are increasingly less tolerant of mandates put upon their children.

While frustration, intolerance, and impatience are rising, we want to recognize what this pandemic has taught us thus far. We learned that people have an astounding capacity for resilience. We learned the power and vitality of community. We gained appreciation for sacrifices made for the wellbeing of others. Most of all, we learned how to find light amongst darkness.

Laughter, grace, gratitude, patience, and understanding are so vital right now. While we truly understand your warranted frustrations, we must continue to follow and enforce the regulations set forth by the MA DPH. We ask for understanding that we are not making the rules, we are enforcing them. Additionally, we are in constant contact with the nurses within the school district. Please know that information on quarantine and isolation, testing, and regulations offered to you by the nurses is coming from us. The nurses are extremely well versed on DPH and DESE regulations and are offering you guidance according to state mandates. They are not interpreting information and making decisions on their own. Each decision comes after careful consideration and collaboration. We are extremely fortunate to have such dedicated and knowledgeable nurses in our schools. They work tirelessly to keep your children healthy and safe. I ask that you please remember that when they are required to be the messengers of a need to quarantine or isolate. Right now, our school nurses could use some grace and understanding.

We appreciate you and want to be a source of assistance, not frustration. If at any time you would like clarification on information you were given, please call us at (413) 967-9615. We are happy to review your specific situation or to answer any questions you may have.

Kindest Regards,

Amy  
Public Health Nurse  
Quabbin Health Department