



# WEST LONG BRANCH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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*Mrs. Christina M. Egan*  
Superintendent of Schools

March 22, 2021

Dear West Long Branch Families,

Over the last week, we have been working closely with the Monmouth County Health Department to review our quarantine guidelines, and we have received updated guidance regarding exposure/close-contact related quarantine. We ask that you please carefully read the following reminders, clarifications, and updates to our quarantine guidelines. NOTE: The below guidelines will guide our decision-making and actions, but please understand that each case is individual and sometimes has unusual and confidential aspects that we cannot share with the public. The district must sometimes take individual, appropriate action in COVID-related cases to protect our students and staff, even though we truly understand it is frustrating for families and for us as well. I believe that our updated and clarified guidelines will help, and it is my sincere hope that we are beyond this period soon and can return to our normal operations.

1. As a reminder, any individual who is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or has been exposed to COVID-19 should **not** return to school until they have either received a negative PCR COVID test or have completed an isolation period according to Department of Health guidelines.
2. As a reminder, if there is an individual in your immediate household who is being COVID tested due to exposure or symptoms, all family members/siblings in the household **must** remain home from school and self-quarantine until receipt of a negative PCR COVID test.
3. As a reminder, close contacts of positive individuals may not "test out" of quarantine and return to school before the quarantine period has elapsed.
4. Due to the recent rise in cases and the increasing reliability of "rapid" tests, if the district receives word of an individual who has tested positive on a "rapid" COVID test, close contacts will be temporarily quarantined, pending the result of a PCR COVID test, at which time the cohort may either return *or* must remain quarantined for the remainder of the 14-day period. This measure is being taken to prevent potential in-school transmission of the virus while awaiting PCR confirmation. We strongly encourage families to please rely on PCR tests and keep your children home if they have been exposed or are exhibiting symptoms.
5. Effective immediately, the following will be the specific criteria/duration of quarantine:
  - For close contacts: The 14 days of quarantine shall begin **on the date of "last contact"** with a confirmed positive individual.
  - For individuals who test positive: The 14 days of quarantine shall begin **on the date on which the positive sample was collected.** In other words, on the date the individual was administered the COVID test.

We greatly appreciate your support and cooperation as we work to keep our schools and community safe.

Sincerely,

Christina Egan  
Superintendent of Schools