

Dear Westbury Families and School Community,

Welcome to the 2022-2023 school year. It is with hope that this letter reaches you and your loved ones safe and healthy. Your child's health and safety are our district's priority.

As you are aware, New York State Department of Health and Nassau County Department of Health continually update their guidelines for COVID-19 Health and Safety protocols. As such, below you will find updates to the Westbury School District's COVID-19 protocols, effective at the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

**Updated Westbury School District COVID-19 Protocols, Effective August 30, 2022**

**A. Masking and Physical Distancing:**

The Westbury School District continues to be a "mask optional" school district and it is still recommended that physical distance be at-least three feet as reasonably possible at all Westbury schools and office settings.

**B. Notification of a Positive Case:**

The district continues to use a digital intake form for reporting student and staff positive cases. Individuals will need to provide their date of birth, address, phone number, date of positive case, building location, and a picture/document of the positive test result. Additional instructions will be sent to the individual once the intake form is completed. Please click the link below to access the *Notification of a Positive Case Intake Form*:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQfFTbULPbIZYoqgNi8oNYXg77j0bcQ0Rjkha1ZA663Q-BXw/viewform>

**C. Isolation for Individuals Who Test Positive for COVID-19:**

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for a **minimum** of five (5) days, regardless of vaccination status. If symptoms persist, further isolation will be required; otherwise, she/he may attend work or school after the 5-day isolation period.

**D. Release from Isolation:**

The district continues to use a digital release process for individuals to return to school and work after the **minimum** 5-day isolation period. Individuals will need to upload an *Affirmation of Isolation* letter from a local Department of Health, as well as an attestation that the individual does not have any symptoms and has been fever-free for seventy-two straight hours. If symptoms persist, an individual may need to isolate for a longer period. Once the form is completed, a digital notification will be sent clearing the individual to return to school/work. Please click this link to access the application to return to school/work:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScA68M\\_8zvgw\\_4OtDd-eZEm\\_xJT01cciPVvbcJ69ittm832g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScA68M_8zvgw_4OtDd-eZEm_xJT01cciPVvbcJ69ittm832g/viewform)

**As per the New York State Department of Health and New York State Education Department, individuals who are released after the 5-day minimum isolation period are required to wear a mask in all settings on days 6-10.**

### **E. Contact Tracing and Daily Notification of COVID-19 Cases:**

The Westbury School District will continue contact tracing, but this will occur during the regular school hours. If a positive case is reported at night or on the weekend, the contact tracing will occur the next school day. At the elementary school level, contact tracing will continue through notification by the school nurse. At the secondary level, notification will be made on a case-by-case basis. The Westbury School District website continues to be the primary daily notification of COVID-19 cases. Please visit:

<https://www.westburyschools.org/Page/4366>.

### **F. No More Quarantining for Possible Close Contacts**

A close contact is defined as being within three feet of a positive case for more than fifteen cumulative minutes on a given day, within a 48-hour period prior to the individual testing positive for COVID-19.

*If a student or staff member is identified as a possible close contact to a positive case:*

- The individual can remain in school/work as normal, regardless of vaccination status.
- It is recommended that the individual wear a mask for 10 days.
- It is recommended that the individual test twice during the 10-day period.
- If symptoms should develop, the individual who has been identified as a close contact should remain home and test.

### **G. International Travel:**

The district continues to follow the CDC recommendations for international travel as part of our COVID-19 protocols. The CDC continually updates recommendations and if you are traveling internationally, please check the CDC website below prior to leaving and before returning to the United States:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel/index.html>

### **H. COVID-19-Like Symptoms and a PCR Test**

If an individual is experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms and has taken a PCR test, she/he cannot return to school/work until a negative result is presented.

### **I. Expired- Mandated Testing of Staff**

The Commissioner's Determination on COVID-19 Testing, dated September 2, 2021, has expired and staff who were mandated last year to test weekly, are no longer required to do so.

### **J. No More Weekly Health Screening Application and Temperature Scanning**

The district will no longer be implementing temperature scanning upon entrance to school buildings, as well as no longer requiring staff to complete a weekly health screening.

- It is the responsibility of each staff member to monitor her/his own health and follow up with a medical professional if experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms. If you are experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms, it is your professional responsibility to follow the district protocols.

- Families are asked to monitor the health of their children and follow up with a medical professional if they are experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms. If your child is experiencing COVID-19 like symptoms, we ask that you keep your child home and follow the district protocols.

### **K. COVID-19 and Moving Forward During the 2022-2023 School Year**

Although these protocols are being adopted for the start of the 2022-2023 school year, the district will be continually monitoring the positivity level in the schools, community, and state-wide. Should the district conclude that there is an uptick of cases, any of these protocols may be modified and any prior procedure(s) may be reinstated. Should this happen, we will notify you in multiple formats.

Should you have any questions about our updated COVID19 protocols and procedures, please contact your child's school or our Assistant Superintendent for Personnel/COVID-19 Coordinator, Dr. Roger Bloom at [Rbloom@westburyschools.org](mailto:Rbloom@westburyschools.org).

### **Monkeypox and Schools**

As you are aware, recently monkeypox has become a communicable disease of concern in the United States. As we start the 2022-2023 school year, please find information below about monkeypox and schools, which can be found on the website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/schools/faq.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/poxvirus/monkeypox/community/teens-young-adults.html#print>

As per the standard nursing guideline, an individual with an undiagnosed rash is not allowed to enter the school grounds and buildings. If your child should develop a rash, please have your child stay home and immediately contact a health care provider. As per the Nassau County Department of Health, if there is a case of monkeypox in the district, there is no community notification (compared to the daily notification of COVID-19 cases). Should you have any questions about monkeypox, please contact the school nurses in each building.

We continue to thank our scholars, staff, faculty, administrators, families and community for their *flexibility, grace, and patience* as we continue to navigate through this uncharted territory together. Your support and cooperation will help us to keep our school buildings and offices safe for all. Thank you for your trust and commitment to the Westbury Union Free School District. Please stay safe and have a wonderful start to the 2022-2023 school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tahira A. DuPree Chase  
Superintendent of Schools