



August 14, 2020

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

EASTCONN's top priority is the safety and well-being of all staff and students. With that in mind, as we plan for returning to school, the most frequently asked question is in regard to our response to potential or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in our schools and programs. After consulting with our medical director, Dr. Sikand, we will follow the guidance laid out by the state.

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) and State Department of Public Health (DPH) have collaborated to provide school districts with guidance and protocols for responding to specific COVID-19 scenarios that may occur with school reopening for the 2020–21 school year.

Under the Governor's plan, *Adapt, Advance, Achieve: Connecticut's Plan to Learn and Grow Together*, EASTCONN magnet schools and Student Services Programs have developed written protocols for containment and immediate response related to symptoms of, diagnosis of, or exposure to, the virus.

The protocols document addresses issues when a student or staff person has or develops: possible signs and symptoms of COVID-19; a diagnosis of COVID-19; or exposure to a person diagnosed with COVID-19. It describes immediate actions that will be taken for removing an individual from the school setting and when they may safely return to school. We will proceed in consultation with public health experts, including our COVID-19 Liaison, our school medical advisors and local health directors, and in consideration of all specific circumstances, on a case-by-case basis. These protocols will be available in an addendum to each site's handbook and will be posted online.

The following document is the guidance of COVID related scenarios.

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/COVID-19/Addendum-5-Interim-Guidance-for-Responding-to-COVID-19-Scenarios-in-CT-School-Districts.pdf>

It is each person's responsibility to do their part in following all guidelines to keep each other safe. If any staff member or student is showing signs or symptoms, we encourage them to stay home and get tested as appropriate. We also ask that anyone who tests positive for COVID share their test results with administration, so we can react quickly and in alignment with the state guidance.

Stay well and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Diane Dugas

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Amy Margelony

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