



WSD Safe Return Update

Woodbridge Board of Education

March 21, 2022

Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D., Superintendent

Key Updates: Mitigation Strategies

- Many thanks to each family who keeps their child home when the child feels sick, or has a fever, runny nose, or shortness of breath
- Optional in-school screening testing continues, now with staff option as well
- Free COVID-19 rapid self-test kits continue to be available to all students and staff
- Since mask choice began (3/7), 10 confirmed COVID-19 cases in BRS community (through 3/18)

Key Updates: Mitigation Strategies

- Mitigation strategies already released:
 - Mask choice began on March 7
 - Quarantining for in-school close contacts has ended
 - Assigned seating on school buses (related to COVID-19) has ended
 - Cohorting at recess has ended
 - Restriction on school visitors has ended
- Next mitigation strategies to be released:
 - Limited use of cafeteria
 - Social distancing in classrooms

Key Updates: Metric for Reconvening WBOE

- Feb. 23: BOE motion directed the administration to develop a data-based metric to provide thresholds of risk to convene a meeting of the WBOE to discuss potential reinstatement of the currently suspended mask policies (4118.237 & 5141.8)
- Feb. 25: CDC issues new public health recommendations focused on County COVID-19 Community Levels
- Subsequent meetings were held with local health partner QVHD, the District's Medical Advisor, & our Nursing Supervisor

COVID-19 Community Level Indicators

CDC recommends the use of three indicators to measure COVID-19 Community Levels: (1) *new COVID-19 hospital admissions per 100,000 population in the last 7 days*; (2) *percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by patients with confirmed COVID-19 (7-day average)*; and (3) *new COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population in the last 7 days* (Table 1).

TABLE 1. COVID-19 Community Levels, Indicators, and Thresholds

New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the *new admissions* and *inpatient beds occupied* metrics, based on the current level of *new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days*.

¹ Number of new cases in the county in the past 7 days divided by the population in the county (or other administrative level) multiplied by 100,000.

² Total number of new admissions of patients with confirmed COVID-19 in the past 7 days divided by the total population in the Health Service Area, multiplied by 100,000.

³ Percent of staffed inpatient beds that are occupied by patients with confirmed COVID-19 within the entire Health Service Area (7-day average).

Key Updates: Metric for Reconvening WBOE

- Should:
 - the New Haven County COVID-19 Community Level rise to the “High” level, and/or
 - there exists clear evidence of significant in-school transmission at BRS, the Superintendent would request that the WBOE convene a Special Meeting to review:
 - more specific data relevant to the Town of Woodbridge as well as BRS, including
 - the use of prior, current, and potential mitigation strategies such as but not limited to masking.
- As at any meeting of the Board, potential action could ensue.