



WSD Safe Return Update

Woodbridge Board of Education

May 11, 2022

Jonathan S. Budd, Ph.D., Superintendent

Why We're Here

- 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
- March 21: Administration presented such a metric:
 - 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.
- May 5: New Haven County COVID-19 Community level rose to the “High” level.

Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in BRS Community

- March 7: Mask choice began
- March 7-18: 10 confirmed cases (*average = 0.8 / day*)
- March 19 - April 18: 14 confirmed cases (*average = 0.5 / day*)
- April 19 - May 6: 29 confirmed cases (*average = 1.6 / day*)
- May 7-10: 18 confirmed cases (*average = 4.5 / day*)
- No evidence of significant in-school transmission as defined by QHVD

Key Town of Woodbridge Data (as of 5/6/22)

- Daily rate of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 in Woodbridge:
 - 40.0 (representing 4/17/22 - 4/30/22)
 - *was 38.4 when masks were made optional*
- Town residents with at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccination:
 - 94.07%
 - *was 93.07% when masks were made optional*

Permanent/Ongoing Mitigation Strategies

- Enhanced air filtration & ventilation systems
- Enhanced cleaning & disinfection
- Enhanced use of handwashing / hand sanitizer
- Increased attention to staying home if symptomatic/sick
- Isolation at home if COVID-positive (*with recommended mask-wearing upon return*)
- Quarantine at home if out-of-school close contact to COVID-positive individual
- Parent option for in-school weekly COVID testing
- Availability of free rapid COVID-19 self-test kits

Currently Sunsetting Mitigation Strategies

- Mandatory masking (*moved to mask choice 3/7/22*)
- Quarantine at home if in-school close contact to COVID-positive individual (*moved to notification of contacts in lieu of specific contact tracing*)
- Assigned seating on school buses (as related to COVID-19)
- Cohorting at recess
- Restriction on school visitors
- Restriction on field trips
- Use of desk shields in offices

Currently Continuing Mitigation Strategies

- Use of cafeteria
 - March 2020 - April 2022: No use
 - April 2022 - current: 50% capacity
 - Based on current data: Further expansion is paused
- Social distancing in classrooms
 - March 2020 - June 2021: 6 feet between individuals
 - August 2021 - April 2022: 3 feet between individuals
 - April 2022 - current: No required social distancing
 - Based on current data: Will return to 3 feet
- Use of desk shields in classrooms & cafeteria will continue for snack & lunch
- Cohorting at dismissal will continue