



# Barker Central School

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**Jacob L. Reimer**  
Superintendent of Schools  
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1/7/2022

Dear Parents/Legal Guardians and Barker Learning Community,

As you are well aware, our entire region is continuing to experience an increase in Covid cases. This is also true here in the school. After providing home tests to students on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, we have been informed of additional positives from those who administered tests at home. As of today, 13 individuals who have been identified as positive were in attendance in either the Elementary School or the Jr.-Sr. High School at some point during this school week.

Unfortunately, due to the increase in cases, the Niagara County Department of Health has a very large task in keeping up with all of the contact tracing required for the reported positives. As such, while only 2 positive cases in total have actually been confirmed by our Department of Health, we are assisting the Department of Health with contact tracing potential exposures to ensure the safety of our entire school community. As per our past practices, our school nurse, Sarah McKee, will continue to manage all Covid related matters, including contacting parents and families who may have students who may need to be quarantined. Please note that other school staff may assist Ms. McKee in contacting families to ensure we reach out to families as soon as we can with information. You will only be contacted if your child may have been exposed to a positive individual and may need to quarantine.

With this information in hand, we also wanted to inform you that yesterday the Niagara County Department of Health approved changes to how isolation and quarantine periods are managed for all individuals. The new guidance aligns with approved CDC and NYSDOH guidance and allows for shortened periods of quarantine and isolation. A link to the NYSDOH guidance can be found [here](#). Or, you can also find a copy of the guidance on the District website.

Within these new guidelines, any individual who tests positive for Covid, or is quarantined due to an exposure to a Covid positive person, may return on the 6<sup>th</sup> day after testing positive or exposure to a positive individual as long as certain conditions are met. Individuals returning on day 6 from isolation or quarantine **must** be asymptomatic or their symptoms must be improving. Masks **must** continue to be worn by anyone returning from isolation or quarantine for days 6-10 after the positive diagnosis or potential exposure. Please review the guidelines for specifics.

Please understand that these new guidelines pertain to all individuals who test positive or are potentially exposed to a positive individual, regardless of vaccination status.

If you have any questions related to isolation or quarantines of your child(ren), please contact Ms. McKee at 716-795-9322 or [smckee@barkerksd.net](mailto:smckee@barkerksd.net).

Next, we also wanted to let you know that we are continuing to develop protocols for our test to stay program, which would allow students and staff to remain in school in the event they must be quarantined due to an exposure. This program would allow quarantined individuals to test each day for the first 5 days of their quarantine period and allow them to continue with in person learning in the District. This program is being developed collaboratively within Niagara County and as soon as we have details completed for this program we will let you know.

Lastly, while we fully acknowledge that being vaccinated is a choice, being vaccinated does reduce the chance of you or your child(ren) being quarantined due to an exposure to someone who is positive. If you would like to get your child(ren) vaccinated (or vaccinated yourself), please visit the District website where you will find a schedule of vaccination clinics across the county as provided by the Niagara County Department of Health.

As always, please continue to keep your students home from school if they are experiencing symptoms.

Sincerely,



Jacob L. Reimer  
Superintendent