

August 22, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you have had a restful and relaxing summer and that everyone is looking forward to returning to school on Monday, August 30th. Prior to the start of school, I wanted to provide an update to the ongoing Covid-19 situation and how we at Canaan Schools will be working to keep our students and staff safe.

Over the last couple of weeks, the Secretary of Education and the Commissioner of Health have issued several advisory memos laying out the recommended COVID-19 prevention measures for the start of the school year, the promotion of vaccines for those who are eligible, and plans for contacting tracing in schools for the fall. We will be re-establishing a number of our mitigation strategies from the prior school year.

Mitigation strategies will include the following:

1. All students and staff must contact their primary care provider to discuss return to school if they have any of the following:
 - a. Show any of the symptoms of COVID-19; cough, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, runny nose, lack of smell/taste, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, muscle aches, headache.
 - b. Have a fever (temperature greater than 100.4°F);
 - c. Are currently in quarantine due to close contact with an individual with COVID-19 or in isolation due to testing positive for COVID-19. You may arrange for a COVID test on your own, at any time, by contacting the VT Department of Health.
2. Mask wearing will be optional for all students and staff, but highly recommended when indoors for individual protection.
3. **Mask wearing will be required by staff and students while traveling on a bus.** This is a federal law, and is required regardless of age and/or vaccination status.
4. Staff and students are encouraged to use physical distancing when possible and reasonable.
5. Staff and students are encouraged to wash hands frequently.
6. Staff will provide regular cleaning of frequently touched surfaces.
7. Ventilation upgrades in both school buildings with an anticipated fully operational date of September 30th. Until that time, staff will open windows, when appropriate.

Canaan Schools will also be hosting free vaccine clinics from 9 am to 12 pm on September 4th and 25th. To register, visit their site online at <https://vermont.force.com/> or call 855-722-7878. Pfizer will be the vaccine offered and is approved for children 12 years old and up. If you have questions or concerns about the vaccine, we encourage you to contact your child's primary care provider.

We must all recognize that the situation is somewhat fluid and subject to change. We will continue to monitor the situation and adjust as we receive updated guidance or as our specific context changes. We anticipate there will be further clarifications and updates provided as we start the school year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to our new Principal, Chuck Patterson or me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Karen E. Conroy
Superintendent